

**City of Takoma Park  
Arts and Humanities Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, Nov. 16, 2021**

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The Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Committee met on Tuesday, Nov. 16, 2021, in the Hydrangea Room.

**Members Present:** Lottie Doughty, Dale Ingram, Bethany Karn, Melanie Modlin, Tommy Parlon, Dayrelis Rios, Leslie Sapp, Ramon Sola and John Warren

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Arts and Humanities Coordinator Brendan Smith

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### **Call to Order**

Meeting called to order at **7 pm**.

### **Adoption of Minutes**

A motion was made by Tommy Parlon and seconded by Leslie Sapp to approve the minutes of the Sept. 28, 2021 meeting as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

### **Welcome New Members and Committee Procedures**

Brendan Smith welcomed 7 new members to the committee after the City Council's reorganization of boards and committees, which led to the name change from the Arts and Humanities Commission to the Arts and Humanities Committee. Smith spoke about the committee members' roles in assisting city staff and promoting public art projects and the *Takoma Park Arts* events series.

### **Overview of *Takoma Park Arts* Events and Upcoming Events**

Smith described the upcoming Shorts Night film screening on Nov. 18 which featured several local filmmakers showing their short films. Other events in the *Takoma Park Arts* series would start up again in January 2022 after the Holiday Art Sale on Dec. 4.

### **Overview of Public Art Projects**

Smith provided an overview of the City's recent public art projects. The sidewalk poetry project features original poems by local residents that are being stamped into local sidewalks during new sidewalk construction or repairs. A committee of local poets selected 20 local winners, including 10 children and 10 adults whose poems will be

featured. Seven poems have been stamped so far and more stamps will be done in the spring when sidewalk work starts again. An online map of the sidewalk poem locations will be promoted in the spring to encourage people to walk and bike around the city.

Smith also described the kid-friendly makeover of B.Y. Morrison Park featuring a new chalkboard mural, painted picnic tables, and children's games stenciled on the concrete. Another project featured artwork by local artists on posters that were installed in bus shelters across the city as part of the *Public Art Works* initiative.

The *Roadside Attractions* concert series featured outdoor driveway concerts to bring live music back to Takoma Park and support local musicians with city-funded honoraria after many have had gigs canceled because of pandemic restrictions.

### **Elections of Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary**

Committee members unanimously appointed John Warren as chair, Leslie Sapp as vice chair, and Melanie Modlin as secretary.

### **Planning and Volunteers Needed for Holiday Art Sale**

Smith said volunteers are needed to help with the Holiday Art Sale, which featured 25 vendors selling art and crafts at the Takoma Park Community Center on Dec. 4. Smith said volunteers could fill two-hour shifts to help direct visitors and provide breaks for vendors when needed. Several committee members expressed interest in volunteering.

### **Future Calls for Poetry Readings, Film Screenings and Performances**

Smith said new calls will need to be issued next year for performances, poetry readings, and film screenings in the *Takoma Park Arts* series. All of the poetry readings that had been scheduled were held online during the pandemic, along with some film screenings.

Smith said several events that were delayed due to pandemic restrictions have been rescheduled in 2022, and more events could be scheduled to fill gaps in the schedule.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at **8:08 pm**.

**Respectfully Submitted**  
by Brendan Smith