

**City of Takoma Park  
Arts and Humanities Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
May 24, 2022**

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The Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Committee met on May 24, 2022, via Zoom.

**Members Present:** Dale Ingram, Bethany Karn, Tommy Parlon, Dayrelis Rios, Leslie Sapp, and Ramon Sola

**Members Absent:** Lottie Doughty and John Warren

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

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**Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 7 pm.

**Approval of Minutes from March 22, 2022 Meeting**

The minutes from the March 22 meeting were unanimously approved.

**Election of New Secretary**

Ramon Sola agreed to serve as secretary, and the motion was unanimously approved.

**Promotion for Upcoming *Takoma Park Arts* Events**

Brendan Smith provided updates on this agenda item and the remaining agenda items.

The *Poetry of Migration* poetry reading will be held on June 2 featuring three immigrant poets from Sri Lanka, Colombia, and the Dominican Republic. The reading is part of ongoing efforts to include greater racial and ethnic diversity in *Takoma Park Arts* events.

The *Vintage Movie Night: Cold War Revisited* film screening by film archivist Richard Hall will be held on June 16. The screening features vintage Cold War-era classroom and propaganda films from the 1940s to the 1980s, which are timely now because of propaganda efforts by the Russian government relating to the war in Ukraine.

The *Poetry from Behind Bars* poetry reading on May 12 was a big success with an engaged audience. Five poets from the Free Minds Book Club who were previously incarcerated read their work which revealed the human costs of imprisonment.

### ***Realm of the Real and Unsung Heroes Art Exhibitions***

The *Realm of the Real* art exhibition will be on display until late July in the Community Center. Figurative artwork by three artists is on display, and a sculptor was added at a later date to show her work in the display cases near the library. The *Unsung Heroes* opening reception will be held on July 28. The exhibition features paintings and charcoal drawings of underappreciated city employees, including sanitation workers, crossing guards, and library staff. The project by local artist Renee Lachman was supported by a grant from the Arts and Humanities Division.

### **Free Little Art Gallery Project**

A contract is being prepared with the contractor that will install the Free Little Art Gallery at a selected location. The project features a box with art supplies which people can use to create artwork. Art can be donated in the box and taken by others in a model similar to little libraries.

### **Bus Shelter Vinyl Wraps**

Vinyl wraps promoting the *Takoma Park Arts* series have been installed on three bus shelters outside Piney Branch Elementary School and at the intersection of Flower Avenue and Houston Avenue. Two more wraps featuring a coral reef design will be installed on shelters at the ALDI shopping center and the intersection of Maple Avenue and Hilltop Road.

### **Pop-up Events Electric Bike**

The pop-up events bike is a joint project between the Housing and Community Development Department and the city library. The bike will be used for mobile arts, planning, and library events at local festivals, farmers markets and other events to reach a wider audience.

### **Calls for Poet Laureate, Poetry Readings, and Performances**

Calls were issued for poets to take part in future *Takoma Park Arts* readings and to select a new Takoma Park Poet Laureate. Outgoing Poet Laureate Kathleen O'Toole will chair a committee overseeing those selections. The poet laureate serves as an ambassador for poetry events and serves as the emcee at poetry readings. The annual honorarium was increased to \$2,000.

Calls for film screenings and performances are being developed and will be issued later this year. The atrium will be closed next year for renovations which will delay some art exhibitions.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.