

# City of Greenbelt Arts Advisory Board Meeting

March 7, 2017

## **Present:**

**Board Members:** Tatiana Ausema, Anna Socrates, Mark Granfors-Hunt, Oliver Gaycken, Win Britt and John Drago.

**Members absent with prior notice:** (none)

**Members absent without prior notice:** Charlette Wilson

**Staff Liaison:** Nicole DeWald

**Council Liaison:** Judith Davis (communicated absence)

## **The meeting started at 7:05 pm**

- 1. A quorum was verified:** Six out of Seven board members were present. A quorum is verified.
- 2. Approval and additional Items for the agenda:** Mother and Child/ Bas Relief Letter of Support for restoration.
- 3. Approval of Past Minutes as Available:** The minutes from the February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017 meeting of the AAB were approved as edited.
- 4. Discussion of FY18 grant applications from Friends of New Deal Café Arts (FONDCA), the Greenbelt Concert Band and the Greenbelt Arts Center:**

**FONDCA** was represented by Peter May, president. Due to former president Barbara Simon's unexpected passing last year, the organization is not taking anything on new this year, but doing projects similar to past years while the organization resettles itself. There are new ideas afloat. However, the board has made a commitment to being conservative in their approach to projects for the coming year. There is a new art coordinator coming on board at the New Deal who is being transitioned into her role by the outgoing coordinator. FONDCA's relationship with The New Deal Café includes underwriting visual as well as performance art. Right now there are some empty display cases at New Deal that could showcase local art. It is hoped that these cases may be used in some way to facilitate their display. Mr. May explained that the charter of FONDCA dictates that they provide services to The New Deal Café and Roosevelt Center specifically and exclusively. This constraint means that they cannot sponsor concerts in Greenbelt East or Greenbelt West.

**Greenbelt Concert Band** was represented by General Manager Elihu Zimet. Band is now close to 50% male to 50% female. Three new trombonists replaced those who

recently left. Their new Music Director, Joan Rackey, replaces former director Tom Cherrix, who now functions as conductor emeritus, remaining as a woodwind performer in the band. Two new partnerships this year include a toy drive combined with the Christmas concert while the other was coordinating with the Greenbelt Farmers Market to provide a small musical group on their opening day. What are you doing about fundraising? What are the implications for the band if they are only awarded 1,000 this year. Eli responded by saying they could at least get by the first year. There is a concern that if they had membership dues, that it would turn off some current members. Taking money out of savings is not a long term solution. Funding is going to be a question that is coming up in the discussion with the larger grant team when they meet. You have applied to be recognized by the IRS as a 501c3 organization. How will that affect your organization? We won't go knocking on doors. We are only doing it as a requirement. According to Eli, Tom submitted a voucher to the city for reimbursement, rather than the organization being reimbursed for his salary. Greenbelt Community Foundation was suggested as a possible funding organization which could be used to offset the City of Greenbelt's grant.

**Greenbelt Cultural Arts Center (GAC)** was represented by Donald Cook and Malca Giblin. Win Brit recused himself from the AAB so that he could represent GAC as its treasurer. GAC has instituted an online ticket reservation and payment process. Future plans include updating the lighting grid to include LED lighting. GAC is reapplying MD Arts Council re-application and they are hopeful that the Arts Council will re-fund them since they were funded for several years, but have not been so for the last couple. GAC is also very excited to have a new visual arts coordinator to synch visual arts exhibitions with the shows. Malca Giblin reviewed the season at GAC for the AAB, giving an overview of the past season and some partnerships, such as with S.O.M.E. What are some upcoming problems? This past year they ran a deficit which is unusual. Part of this is due to lost performances as the result of inclement weather. In addition, some shows were not that well known and where not as large an audience draw as hoped. GAC is raising ticket prices for next year, but prices are still average, so the increase should help and not hurt the box office. Already this year they have had some shows that have done better than last year, which should also contribute to a healthier budget. They also share their performance space with other acting companies. A fairly thorough conversation about GAC was presented. Even though last year was a difficult year financially, they had no problem matching the City of Greenbelt funds from last year, and are more than on track to match it again this year.

A general conversation among the AAB members followed, once all parties had left the room, so that Anna Socrates would have a good sense of how the board felt prior to her meeting with the Grant Review Board next April.

- 5. Other Business: Mother and Child, and Bas Relief on Community Center Preservation Letter of Support.** Oliver Gaycken volunteered to draft a letter on behalf of the Arts Advisory Board to accompany the city's application for grant support from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority for conservation and enhanced signage.

**6. Adjournment:** 9:27pm

Approved by acclamation, 5/2/17