

**City of Greenbelt**  
**Arts Advisory Board Meeting**  
November 7, 2017

**Present**

**Board Members:** Mark Granfors-Hunt, Win Britt, John Drago, Glenn Griffiths, Ronald Lonicki, Tatiana Ausema, Oliver Gaycken

**Staff Liaison:** Nicole DeWald

**Not Present**

**Members absent with prior notice:** Anna Socrates

**Council Liaison:** Judith Davis, Mayor Pro Tem (she previously communicated that she is unable to attend today's meeting)

**The meeting started at 7:08pm**

**1. Verification of quorum:**

Seven members were present, a quorum was verified.

**2. Approval of the agenda:**

The agenda was approved as submitted.

**3. Approval of the minutes from August 1st 2017 (MGH):**

The minutes from the AAB May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017, were approved as amended.

**4. Update on Dr. Barber project:**

Ms. DeWald informed us that Ms. Barber has the old paper box in her possession and has purchased the paint for refurbishing it, but hasn't begun the repainting. Nicole suggested that we put the word out to see if anyone is available to help with painting the box as Ms. Barber would appreciate it. Perhaps Makers Space is a resource for guidance on how to manage the project. Or perhaps Jim Miers and Jan Derry, who have installed a private library box on their property at 110 Greenhill Road, could be used as a resource.

**5. Second Reading of the proposed updates to the bylaws**

The following changes to the Arts Advisor Board Bylaws were recommended and read for the second time into the minutes:

Article 4: Membership, Section 1: The membership (which is appointed by the City Council) shall be composed of ~~nine~~ **seven** to ~~eleven~~ **nine** citizen members plus the Arts ~~Coordinator~~ **Supervisor** as a non-voting member.

Article 6: Meetings, Section 1: A simple majority of the voting Board members shall constitute a quorum; in the absence of a quorum the chair may designate a date at

which business may be conducted in the absence of a quorum, the notice of that date to be ~~mailed~~ sent to the Board members at least two weeks in advance.

Article 6: Meetings, Section 2: The Board shall ~~meet at least nine times a year.~~ reserve a standard monthly meeting date and convene as needed at the discretion of the chair with the input of the members.

Article 6: Meetings, Section 3: The minutes of each meeting and announcements of upcoming meetings will be ~~mailed~~ sent in a timely fashion to each member before the next meeting.

Article 10: Amendments, Section 1: After amendment changes have been read at two ~~monthly~~ consecutive meetings, the By-laws may be amended by a vote taken at the third ~~monthly~~ consecutive meeting.

**6. Discussion of the petition by AAB member John Drago to the Greenbelt City Council on 9/25/2017 to establish a Greenbelt Arts Council based on the City of Laurel's Ordinance 1908 establishing a Laurel Arts Council.**

The Arts Advisory Board was asked to weigh in on John Drago's petition to the Greenbelt City Council to establish a separate Greenbelt Arts Council, similar to what has recently been established by the City of Laurel.

Mr. Drago is a member of Laurel's newly formed Art Council and shared his recent experience and frustration as a member of that council. According to Mr. Drago, the Laurel Arts Council is in the process of setting their goals and priorities. Instead of emulating The City of Hyattsville's newly formed arts district as was one of the original reasons for forming the council, they appear stuck in focusing on arts education for children. Mr. Drago expressed his disappointment in the qualifications of the people who are appointed, and that he personally had little desire to see the Laurel Art Council focus primarily on children.

Mr. Lonicki reflected that the Laurel document is fairly broad in wording and doesn't really give a clear indication of where the arts council will focus.

In comparing the Greenbelt Arts Advisory Board model to the Laurel Arts Council model, Ms. DeWald reminded the AAB of our work on public art and that we have worked through and written out more than Laurel has put into their document. She also stressed that Greenbelt does a lot with education and the arts. Our two communities have different ways of going about the business of supporting art. Greenbelt is doing a lot of the same things the Laurel Arts Council is doing, but in our own way.

Ms. Ausema reflected that the current structure of the AAB is broad enough to embody what Laurel is setting up without the need to set up a Greenbelt Arts Council.

Mr. Drago sees it as a positive thing that unlike the AAB, the Laurel Arts Council is tasked with going out and finding art to bring in, as well as actually setting up and running art shows. He is also impressed that there is room for board members to reside outside the city of Laurel.

In response to Mr. Drago saying he has no desire to do a show where he is the sole exhibitor, Ms. DeWald suggested that the Art Share series provided monthly by the Greenbelt Recreation Department might offer a venue where he could find other artists who may want to do a combined art show.

Ms. Ausema then asked for some feedback on the proposed idea of forming a separate arts council similar to what the city of Laurel has done.

Mr. Gaycken responded by saying the Laurel Arts Council model seems duplicative and there is no need for it here in Greenbelt, in fact it may even be more restrictive.

Mr. Drago informed us that due to his frustration in working with the Laurel Arts Council, he has drafted his letter of resignation.

Ms. Ausema stated we don't need to take this up in a second meeting. But what can we pass on to Greenbelt City Council in response to Mr. Drago's petition?

Ms. DeWald suggested that our response should contain more than a simple up or down response.

Ms. Ausema reflected that a more proactive seeking of local art could be integrated into the AAB model. Maybe it all has to do with the people who are actually sitting on the AAB and how motivated they are.

Ms. DeWald responded by saying that doers are certainly welcome and the AAB is more than willing to take people on the board who can and will take on projects.

Mr. Lonicki happily volunteered to assist Mr. Drago in fulfilling his vision of holding an artist's gathering on the grassy area in front of Roosevelt Center.

In response to member's question, Ms. DeWald said that it might be possible for AAB to create a web page through the City of Greenbelt Webpage if desired by the Board.

## **7. State of the Arts on PG County**

Mr. Lonicki shared with us his experience of attending the State of the Arts program that was held at the Public Playhouse. The evening's presentation included two panels, one comprised of arts administrators and the other filled with artists. A major focus was how the arts bring value to the areas and businesses surrounding the arts venue. County wide practitioners are acknowledging the positive economic impact of arts on a community. The meeting was also attended by Ms. DeWald, Eva Fallon and George Boyce of the Greenbelt Makerspace, and Recreation Department art instructor Valerie Watson.

## **8. The meeting adjourned at 8:18 pm**