

FAA board meeting minutes

Tuesday, May 1, 2012, 5:00 p.m.
All Purpose Room
Charlotte Street Arts Centre

Present: Katie FitzRandolph, Jean Rooney, Russ Hunt, Barbara Roberts, Cynthia Ryder

Absent: Renée Davis, Allen Bentley, Marie Maltais, Bill Johnson, Penny Pacey

1. Call to order

By Jean at 5:10 p.m.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Moved by Katie, seconded by Cynthia, passed.

3. Adoption of minutes

Moved by Katie, seconded by Russ, passed.

4. President's report – Jean

See copy of report [appended](#). There was discussion, at this point and later, of the implications of Jean's meeting with Angela Watson, especially regarding her interest in exploring the problem that so few elements of the 2003 municipal arts policy have been implemented. It was agreed that many of these issues should be raised at the candidates' forum. It was also agreed that Angela needs to be more regularly engaged with ArtsLink, and we might facilitate that.

Moved that the President's report be received by Katie, seconded by Barb, passed.

5. Treasurer's report – Cynthia

See copy of report [appended](#). Discussion began with Katie's observation that the balance seemed healthy enough that we could think about running the Artists in Residence program without the city's grant. Russ observed that we need to be careful not to give the impression that we don't need the city grant. Katie pointed out that we would be running a reduced schedule, and we should make that clear. Whether we could pay the artists less seemed a counterproductive suggestion, since it would only affect the artists and not be a public consequence. Cynthia pointed out that running the program for nine weeks would cost \$7200, which, if it comes to the crunch, we could cover, given that, right now, it looks as though we probably have around \$12000 that isn't earmarked. It's also possible that we will be able to get sponsorships; that has happened before. Barb wondered how long it's run in the past; Katie said that last year, because of Congress, we ran 15 weeks. Cynthia said if we started at the end of June, nine weeks would fill July and August, which is the city's main tourist season. The season

for the Casemates runs from the 4th of June to the 9th of September, so we'd be shortening our part of it by five weeks.

The question of when we could announce a program and begin inviting applications from artists was raised. No one knows when we might hear about the provincial grant. If we decide go anyway, that date may not be important.

There was discussion of how we might publicize the program more effectively, which continued under item 8a below.

At this point Jean had to leave and it was agreed that we would continue with some of the items on the agenda and organize another meeting to deal with issues left untouched.

6. Membership report – Renée

Renée had reported by previous email that there wasn't much news about membership.

7. Supervision for summer student, if we get the money for one

Nothing new

8. Programs / issues (if not already dealt with):

a. Arts Department Grant: Discussion focused on what we might do to publicize the program and make it clearer what it offers the city -- for instance, could we hire someone to produce a video. Some discussion of that possibility ensued, including the suggestion that we talk with Tony Merzetti about possibly finding a student interested in doing it.

b. Fundraiser (High on the Arts): Discussion postponed.

c. Web site and logo: Discussion postponed.

d. ARTSnews meeting with Amani: Russ reported that he, Jean and Renée had met with Amani, who had raised a number of issues. She proposed that we explore redoing the appearance of the News, and it was agreed that that was a good idea but perhaps should wait and be coordinated with the redesign of the Web site and the general graphic appearance of the organization. She also suggested that we need to put some pressure on regular users of the service to be members of the organization, and as a result a process is underway to do that -- Amani, Renée and Russ are working on creating an email list of regular users. She also proposed that we explore using a commercial subscription service, such as those used by The Playhouse, Goose Lane, and others, in place of the Communigate listserver at St. Thomas. Because such services automatically offer readers the alternative of a Web-based version of each issue, it might solve some formatting problems, and might make assembling the News a bit easier.

Russ said that it seemed to him that although Amani had not specifically complained about the rate of pay, that the number of hours involved was mounting, and that, especially, redesigning the News would be an extra burden. Part of the reason for exploring a subscription service would be to ease the burden on the editor. Katie pointed out that we may be in a position to raise Amani's pay, and suggested that was something we should consider -- or possibly hiring someone to do the redesign.

e. Municipal election forum: It was agreed that we need to publicize the Forum (Russ has sent out an ARTSnews special issue and will be sending out press releases, and Jean has agreed to call the public service phone systems for the three CBC programs -- *Information Morning, Shift, and Close to Home*. Barb pointed out that we need to generate an audience, and it was agreed that we should, among other things, call friends. Cynthia suggested that there were places in town -- galleries, for example, where notices might be posted, and Katie said she would generate a poster. Russ said that he could arrange to get it photocopied.

It was also agreed that we need to generate questions to be put to the candidates and organize to let the candidates know about them; that was an issue which, given the limited number of people at the meeting and the time, might be dealt with via email.

9. Other business

None.

10. Time and date of next meeting

This was left to be decided via email.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by agreement at 6:15.

Russ Hunt
Secretary