

FAA Board meeting minutes
Monday, October 28, 2013
NB Film Co-op Boardroom
Charlotte Street Arts Centre

Present: Sabine Campbell, Renée Davis, Katie FitzRandolph, Russ Hunt, Cynthia Ryder, Marie Maltais, Jean Rooney

Absent: Allen Bentley, Bill Johnson, Susan Pierce, Barbara Roberts

1. Call to order by Jean at 4:15

2. Adoption of the Agenda

No agenda was prepared; it was agreed to use the minutes of the last meeting as a framework.

3. Adoption of the minutes of last board meeting

Moved by Renée, seconded by Cynthia, passed. Discussion arising from the minutes included some consideration of the continuing non-participation of Bill Johnson, and the need to have a board member who actively contributes; it was agreed that Jean would contact him with regard to replacing him on the board. Sabine asked about the status of the Playhouse consultation; Jean said that there was still a Facebook page, and that comments are still being received.

4. President's report – Jean

Jean thanked the Gala committee for a wonderful job. She reported that the Municipal Arts & Culture meetings have now produced a draft document, and hope to finalize it this week. She said she would circulate the draft to the Board. They have done a broad survey (over 300 people) and found, among other things, concern about school cutbacks on the arts. Kate Rogers is steering the process. On behalf of the FAA, Jean said, she's been stressing culture over economics – arguing that benefits to the culture of the community are more important in themselves than measuring economic benefits of art. Adoption of the report was moved by Katie, seconded by Sabine, passed.

5. Treasurer's report – Cynthia

Because we aren't at the end of the month yet, there's no monthly statement. Cynthia reported that we have yet another credit from CRA (for \$13; the good news is that we don't owe them anything). She also reported that we've received a “grant” for \$750 from Downtown Fredericton, and that she does not know what it's for. After some discussion, it was agreed that nobody else knew, either. Jean is to check on it. Reporting on the Gala, Cynthia said that although there are still a few invoices outstanding (and Sabine's working on clarifying whether artists chose the half sale price or tax receipt option) we can say positively that tickets covered expenses – and that at a best guess we probably netted \$10,000. Adoption of the report was moved by Russ, Seconded by by Katie, and carried.

6. Programs/issues

a. High on the Arts Gala committee

Sabine said that the Gala committee was planning a wrapup meeting on Wednesday, but feedback in general said that people loved the band and that the evening was successful. The only complaint was the lineup to pay at the end. She suggested we need another credit card machine. Cynthia said that she has learned that Costco rents them (if you have an “executive membership”) for about \$57 a month (and there's no long-term contract). Jean checked and announced that she has such a membership; it was agreed that renting a couple of them next time would be a good idea.

Sabine thanked the Committee – Katie, Allen, Marie, and Penny – for their great work, and also offered special thanks to those who helped out that night, especially Leo McNeil and Barb Roberts (and her husband) and Cynthia.

Renée raised a question about how much of the money we earn seems to come from the FAA itself and our friends, and wondered if we can really justify all the effort. Some discussion ensued, and the consensus was that even if this were the case, there were other benefits of the Gala, to the FAA and to the artistic community, that made it worth it. Sabine pointed out that this was only the fourth one, and the first that was really successful. It seemed to her that we were beginning to figure out how to do it without quite so much work, and that we should continue till we see that it's beginning not to work. Marie pointed out that one thing we've learned is about timing: the middle of October seems really convenient for a number of reasons; Katie agreed, pointing out that selling tickets in September and October may well be the best time. [Penny arrived at this point.] Sabine suggested that we need to be thinking about the best ways to use the money we've earned. Katie wondered about giving money to schools for art supplies. Jean suggested that maybe we could give schools artists instead of supplies, by funding artist in residence. Marie observed that we need to have a full discussion of this, and of how much money there is (we'll need to provide insurance space in case grants don't come through).

Sabine thanked Russ for his work on the Web site.

b. Artists in Residence exhibition

Jean met with Angela to set a time for this. Marie said that she had heard that City Hall was discontinuing art exhibitions in their space; Jean said that there had been no mention of that at her meeting. Sabine said that if that were the case, we should consider moving it to a new venue. The Playhouse, the Arts Centre, and Gallery Connexion were suggested as alternatives. In connection with the latter, there was some discussion about shared memberships with other arts organizations (if we joined the Gallery in order to put the exhibition there, shouldn't we work out an exchange?) Jean is planning to meet with Derek for a post mortem on the logistics of this summer's series.

c. Membership

Renée reported that reaction to the emailed letter announcing the change to an

annual membership had been sparse but positive. Katie said that it would appear we haven't alienated anybody.

d. Pro bono program

Katie reported that she has met with the two students who are going to work on it, and that the project has been launched.

f. Web site issue

Russ said that the site still needs a redesign; there was the usual discussion about the cost of hiring it done (and the fact that Jean's contact at the Art and Craft School is far overworked). Jean said that in any case Facebook is the dominant medium. Marie said that every survey the Craft Council has done has suggested that it's a mix: radio has no influence, but posters, social media and print all contribute.

7. Time and date of next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would be Monday, November 25, at 4:00.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10.

Russ Hunt
Secretary