

FAA Board meeting minutes

Sunday, January 11, 2015

Shannex Boardroom

Parkland Fredericton

Present: Allen Bentley, Renée Davis, Katie FitzRandolph, Russ Hunt, Penny Pacey, Cynthia Ryder

Visitors: Forrest Orser, Peter Gross

Absent: Sabine Campbell, Susan Pierce, Jean Rooney, Natalie Sappier

1. Call to order by Penny at 7:05

2. Adoption of the agenda

Adoption was moved by Allen, seconded by Renée, and the motion was carried.

3. Adoption of the minutes of last board meeting

Adoption was moved by Russ, seconded by Renée, and the motion was carried.

4. President's report – Penny

Penny reported that she has, as requested, ascertained the current board membership. She noted that Barb had formally resigned today, and that Natalie felt she would like to continue on the board. There was extensive discussion, concluding in agreement that it would be best to ask Natalie to continue to be involved as possible (especially with curating the Artists in Residence exhibition) but that it would be better if after the AGM she made room on the board for a member able to attend and contribute to meetings regularly.

Penny wondered if we have a process for orienting new board members, for instance with a package of documents offering background; it was agreed that we never have had such a process. Renée noted that most such documents are accessible on the Web site.

Penny reported that she had consulted with Bruce Gray about the possibility of his presentation being offered jointly with a lawyer, and that he had responded with an email, which she read, saying that his viewpoint would be different from that of a lawyer and that he would have enough information to fill a meeting without trying to make room for a second presenter. It was agreed that we should go ahead with his presentation.

With respect to signing authority, Penny reported that she has now been to the credit union and signed the appropriate documents, but that it was apparently the case that both Cynthia and Allen would have to make arrangements to sign again.

Regarding the Art on the Streets program, Penny said she will have a meeting with Warren Maddox to discuss the project. He is new to the job and unfamiliar with the history. Keeping

the project going will require some decisions and negotiation. There have been security problems with its location, for instance, and that will have to be solved. We will need to do PR to attract mature artists with teaching experience to the program. There are funding possibilities – Sean Dunbar, for instance, has indicated willingness to contribute anonymously, and Endeavours may be willing to donate supplies. But someone is going to have to pick up where Jean left off. Allen asked how much we were paying artists; Cynthia said \$100. Katie confirmed that that did not include supplies. Russ suggested that we wait to discuss the issue till after the AGM, when we might have board members interested in taking the project on.

Penny had spoken to Jean who promised to deliver the Artist in Residence contracts to Cynthia soon. With respect to the exhibition, Penny had spoken to Natalie who expressed a willingness to curate it, but there remain problems with scheduling. Tim Richardson, at the Lieutenant-Governor's House, had told Jean that the exhibition would need to be put off from this winter until next summer. He is difficult to reach to confirm a date. A number of people said that seemed awfully late, especially since it will be including work done in the summer of 2013. Allen said he's worked with Tim and would try to contact him about scheduling. There was some discussion about the current expectation that there would be an exhibition only every other year, and it was suggested that this would be a poor alternative, and that Allen should explore that. If the L-G house isn't available annually, Russ suggested, we might look for an alternative that would be available in alternate years. Peter Gross said that the renovated library has a small exhibition space on the main floor, and the last time he looked there was nothing in it. It was agreed that Penny would explore this option.

The Fredericton Heritage grant has been getting smaller every year, Penny noted, and wondered about whether we should be applying under series rather than projects. We need to look at this more closely. They want to focus on the “new,” and we should think about what we can do to make it new again. Extensive discussion followed, focused on why we should fix what is clearly not broken. Katie said we should just make a strong application and say that it works. Russ said he would hate to see us compromise too much just in order to get the grant; we have decided already that if worst came to worst we could finance the summer ourselves. Penny said that we could adopt a theme; we've done that before, and it doesn't necessarily have to entail watering down or weakening the program. She suggested either “appreciating wisdom, i.e., the value of seniors” or the environment as focal ideas, which are hot topics for the city right now. Katie said that she preferred an environmental theme to geezer artists; Russ agreed.

Penny wondered if there were a way to have copies of past grant applications available for people working on current ones. It was agreed that this would be a good idea. Usually such documents are kept with the president's files; there might be a better way to handle this. Russ said they might be posted on the board documents section of the Web site. Penny also wondered if it were possible for us to create a calendar of dates, so people would know when grant application deadlines were.

Finally, she announced that Fredericton Community Foundation has come through with \$3000 for the Art in the Schools project. Congratulations were exchanged, all round.

5. Nominating committee – Allen

Continuing members of the board are Allen, Jean, Penny, Russ, Cynthia and Sabine. Allen reported that there has been interest expressed from a number of people – more than we'd need to achieve the bylaw's minimum of 10. He mentioned Dan Gleason, who would like to return to the board, as well as Peter Gross and Forrest Orser (both in attendance), Karen LeBlanc, Tony Merzetti, Anna Ziprick and others. It was agreed that we should wait to see what some of them decide before approaching others. Penny said that Jean has indicated her eagerness to continue being involved, especially in implementing a revised Web site and updating it and the Facebook site.

6. FAA email (Yahoo and artsalliance), Web site, GridCity/ArtsLinkNB outreach – Russ

Russ reported on the ongoing attempt to switch from the yahoo email account to the frederictonartsalliance.ca one. The yahoo account has not been very useful; since mid-December there have been 133 filtered spam or phishing messages and a few dozen that were not filtered and had to be manually deleted. There have been a number of notices for the *ARTSnews*, all of which had also gone to Bridget. There was one reminder about the Downtown Fredericton grant request deadline, which he thought had already gone to Katie (but which had not), and one authentic message about updates to PayPal. There were also about ten institutional messages from ArtsNB, ArtsLinkNB, the McCain gallery in Florenceville, etc. The problems with simply shutting the address down and bouncing incoming mail to the frederictonartsalliance account are that there are hundreds of stored messages from the last eight or ten years in the account's folders, and all of the spam would be forwarded as well and would need to be dealt with in the new account. For the short term, it seems the best alternative, he thought, is for him to keep monitoring the two accounts.

The web site is still in the process of needing a facelift, Russ said, and expressed happiness that Jean was still interested in being involved. Other than that, regular maintenance – posting of issues of the *ARTSnews* as they appear, updating the main page as possible, etc. – continues.

The initiative for cooperation with GridCity and ArtsLinkNB have both suffered, he reported, from lack of response. He has attempted contact via Facebook and institutional email addresses but has had no response. Suggestions were made for alternative contacts, and he said he would continue to work on it; he had had a suggestion from Katie for an email address for Matt Carter at Grid City, but so far no response. Katie said she would talk to Matt. Kate Wallace would be the point person for ArtsLinkNB, as executive director; Russ said he would find an address for her. Akou Connell was also suggested as someone who would know who would be the best contact there.

7. Telephone account, Schools Project, Summer Student – Katie

Katie reported that in fact we could not get along without the phone line, as (among other things) it's necessary for many grant applications. It was agreed that the phone line needs to be checked regularly. At the last meeting it was agreed that if the phone line were to be

maintained, messages should be autoforwarded to Penny, as president; that still seems the best plan.

The Art in the Schools program, Katie reported, is well under way, with eight projects going forward. We need to be especially appreciative that most of the work is actually done by Andrea Penny and the Anglophone West school district; she, Sabine and Allen went down to Oromocto to assess applications, and the rest is taken care of. Peter Gross said that he's doing a similar project at Liverpool Street School, in photography, and the school seems to have a significant budget to support it. He said he would check to see if there were other schools with such budgets that we might find ways to work with.

The summer student application, Katie reported, is in; it seems, she said pretty certain we'll get one (the only reason we haven't had one the last couple of years is that we haven't got the application in). In the past, Renaissance College has given us space, and probably they will do so again, though the decision awaits the new Dean; and in any case, Katie said, there's a plan B, involving ArtsNB. It's important to the grant's success, she said, that we're paying more than minimum wage – even though it's not a lot more (\$11 an hour). The program runs fourteen weeks at 35 hours a week.

8. Membership report – Renée

Annual memberships are all due for renewal this month, Renée said, and circulated a draft reminder letter, which she will send out to the list Russ has set up. She noted that there will need to be membership forms at the AGM. There was discussion of the relation between membership and subscription to the *ARTSnews*. Peter asked how many members and subscribers there were (about 90 members, and 1600 subscribers, said Russ) and pointed out that it seemed important that we work on the conscience of subscribers to increase membership. After all, he noted, a \$20 membership would mean that it would cost 40 cents a week for the *ARTSnews*. It was agreed that this should be part of the drive to sign up new members.

9. Treasurer's report – Cynthia

Cynthia summarized the two statements, for [November](#) and [December](#), and noted that we are in great shape. She also went over a summary of the entire 2014 year.

10. Programs / Issues

a. Artists in Residence

It was agreed that we need to get notices out so that artists can begin applying, and to set up a jury. There was some discussion of whether the 14 week season – from June 1 to September 14 – would be affordable if we don't get the grant from the city. Cynthia did some quick math and said that yes, it would be affordable, but barely. There was some discussion of the location of our booth (Penny had noted last year that we were down at the end, beyond two closed booths). Katie said that the two closed booths were actually full of functional equipment and couldn't be used in any case; but that she'd been told that the only way we

could expect to be moved east to a spot among the other booths would be if we were committed to the entire 14 weeks, and then it couldn't be guaranteed. It was agreed that we're going to need an executive committee to oversee the operation, and that one should be formed immediately after the AGM.

b. AGM

We'll need to make sure we have documentation – agenda, minutes of last AGM, financial reports, president's report, membership applications – available at the door. We should also need to know what the key committees we'll want people to be serving on are; the Gala committee, for instance, as well as the Artists in Residence one. Cynthia said that what we need to focus on is continuity and having a full, involved board so that our projects can continue.

c. Other business

In light of the widespread concern for continuity, and Katie's long-term and admirable contribution to the FAA, Russ suggested that we name her President Emeritus (as we had done years ago with George Fry) and invite her to attend board meetings and continue her engagement with the FAA's mission. There was general agreement, but this was at the end of the meeting so no vote was taken. This may mean an amendment to the bylaws, but that could be done at the AGM.

11. Time and date of next meeting: this is to be decided after the new board is elected, at the AGM.

12. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:43.

Russ Hunt
Secretary