

FAA Board meeting minutes

Wednesday, April 1, 2015

Film Co-op Boardroom

Charlotte Street Arts Centre

Present: Allen Bentley, Sabine Campbell, Derek Davidson, Dan Gleason, Russ Hunt, Tony Merzetti, Forrest Orser, Penny Pacey, Cynthia Ryder

Absent: Heather McTiernan, Jean Rooney, George Strunz

Welcome new board members

Penny noted that the potential new member, Kris Leblanc, had decided not to join the board.

1. **Call to order** by Penny at 6:03

2. **Adoption of the agenda**

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

3. **Adoption of the minutes of last board meeting**

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

4. **President's report**

Penny reported that she had picked up the city cheque in support of the *ARTSnews*, and noted that it was unfortunate that she had not been notified that it had been ready since January 20. She said that we should look into ensuring changes in contact emails and phone numbers after AGMs were properly circulated. She said she was continuing to approach potential new members of the board as a result of Sabine's suggestion at the last board meeting. She noted the continuing problem of distribution of board emails despite agreement that committee matters or individual matters should not go to the whole board, as it was a problem for working board members. Tony concurred. Some discussion ensued. Sabine said she thought we'd agreed that when general emails were intended for only some members or were not generally relevant we should use Subject: lines to make that clear. Russ noted that everyone has different mail clients, which display alternatives for responding differently, and said that if it were preferred he could set the board list to reply by default only to the sender. No clear decision was arrived at. It was agreed we'd continue to try to use Subject: lines to keep it straight. Penny also reported that there had been two phone messages; one from someone who had received an erroneous nondelivery notice somehow related to the *ARTSnews* (Russ said that it was a glitch that has now been dealt with), and another inquiry about placing a notice for an event in Woodstock in the *ARTSnews*; she had referred that to Bridget.

5. **Treasurer's / Membership report**

Cynthia summarized the statement for [March](#) and said that we are in pretty good shape financially. She said we have heard nothing about the application for a summer student. It is not clear when we've heard in the past; we've not applied the last two years. Were we to be awarded one we need to address the problem of where to house her. It was agreed that the student could use the casemates. Adoption of the report was moved by Cynthia, seconded by Sabine, and passed.

6. Committee updates

Artists in Residence: Derek. A number of issues were discussed: the necessity of including artist's SINS in the form, the possibility of asking them to fill out a T1 (they don't need to because they aren't technically employees and we don't need to issue a T4 unless they've earned more than \$500); the phrasing of the requirements for hours spent in the booth (it had been 30 hours minimum for “emerging artists,” but no one knew why that had been limited, and it seemed reasonable to make that for everyone. The city does not allow the booth to be closed, so it needs to be manned continuously. A summer student (should we have one) could help with this, but it's a complicated issue and needs to be negotiated between the resident artists. Allen wondered about the dates for applications; Cynthia said we'd been late with that last year, and this year it should be sooner. Dates and deadlines are to be discussed and agreed on by the committee. There was discussion of where the process should be advertised beyond the ARTSnews; it was agreed there should be PSAs in the newspaper, and notices on ArtsLinkNB, GridCity, etc. Forrest agreed to handle all such communications.

Derek said we'd said in our application to the city that we would “encourage diversity” in participants and wondered how we could do that. One suggestion was notices in the Multicultural Centre would help. Derek wondered who was going to be on the jury and in what form we should ask for submissions. After some discussion it was agreed that email would be best (that CDs are a dead medium), and that some caution should be offered about large files. Russ said he could easily set up an email address on the Web site to which people could email submissions, and then they could be autoforwarded to whoever was appropriate, or the appropriate people could simply have the password for the email account and receive them there.

There was more discussion of details of the application form; Derek is to put something together and circulate it. There was also a call for a slogan or title. One suggestion was “Outside the Box.” Tony suggested “Up your Arts,” which was agreed to by general consensus. Sabine said she's always found “Artists in Residence” a poor name for the program, but it was agreed that it would be difficult to come up with an alternative and change at this point. There was some discussion of what the word “Casemates” meant, anyway (“a fortified gun emplacement or armored structure from which guns are fired” seemed inappropriate and, Cynthia said, has been discouraged by the city in favor of Garrison).

Art in the Schools: Penny / Allen. Penny reported that she and Allen had met, and Allen will chair the committee and is the contact person for the folks from the education department. There was discussion of making sure artists are qualified – both as professional artists and to handle a teaching situation. Cynthia wondered if we could use the definitions of “professional artist” provided by people like the Canada Council, ArtsNB, etc. It was agreed we should

consult those and adapt them. Penny and Allen had agreed that he is to work on developing a pool of professional artists to draw from.

Art off the Streets: Penny. Penny reported that she, Peter Gross, Heather, and Jean had met and discussed expanding the initiative beyond the homeless. Sabine wondered if there were something happening with that initiative at the moment. Penny said that yes, things were underway, but there have been continuing problems with security, although the problem at Victoria Health was solved by an agreement to use a specific room which is covered by security already. She reported that Peter Gross has found a program in progress out of Concordia University which used a dedicated space. There was discussion of alternatives among homeless shelters, transition houses, etc. Peter's son Alex is working on setting something up. Penny suggested possibly using the new "making space" in the Multicultural Centre. Dan wondered if there were a schedule for this in place; Penny said this doesn't really seem to be the sort of thing that is easily scheduled, but needs to be done as occasions arise. We need, she said, someone to provide continuity for the program.

Grants: Heather. Penny said she had expected Heather to be in attendance, but knew that she has been extremely busy recently. She reported that the "Partnership for Community" grant application, which was due April 1 wasn't going to be finished, but there's another round in September which we can try for. Other applications have gone in. The question of grant for a speakers' series came up, and the question was raised as to how much we'd pay, since it would affect whether, and how much, we pay Bruce Gray for the talk he's offered to give on legal issues for artists. Sabine said we should just go ahead and schedule this talk and not wait for a potential grant: we have the money. Penny said it would be too bad, though, to accept his offer to do it for free and then set up a speakers' series where we paid people. It was agreed that it would be better to hold the occasion in the spring rather than to wait till fall (Bruce first proposed this quite some time ago). Sabine said she would take on organizing the talk for later this month.

Member engagement: Heather. We agreed to wait till next meeting; Penny and Heather have met to talk about it, and Bridget has said she'd be interested in helping. Penny said Marie Maltais did a survey last year that might be useful.

Gala: Sabine. Sabine said there is to be a meeting of the Gala committee on the 7th. We need a theme; people should be thinking about it.

Web/Technology: Russ. Russ said that Forrest, Derek, Tony, Jean and Bridget had expressed interest, there has been some discussion via email, and that there was to be a preliminary meeting after this current board meeting.

7. Other business.

Nick Tracy proposal: Allen. There was, again, extensive discussion of the proposal. Penny said she had invited Nick to come this evening and explain what he had in mind, but that he hadn't done so. Allen had a written statement from Nick, along with some suggested definitions of what would constitute a "professional creator." The statement proposed that

“identification be provided by the FAA for the city's professional creators, and arrangements made with the performance organizations to recognize the identification as qualification for concession prices.” It said that individual organizations would need to evaluate the size of such a concession, and that “FAA could consider subsidizing the concession rate to ensure that creators can afford the ticket price.” There were questions about how such a program would be administered (if, for example, cards were to be provided, they'd need to be made and monitored, and applications received and evaluated) and who would negotiate with venues for discounts. There was a suggestion that there is a pretty limited number of venues whose prices are so high that a discount would amount to much, especially given the likely administrative implications. It was asked whether Nick has contacted potential organizations to see if they'd be interested in participating. Allen said he would be in touch with Nick to explain our questions about this.

8. Time and date of next meeting.

As per our agreement last time, the next meeting is to be on Wednesday, May 6, at 6:00.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38.

Russ Hunt
Secretary