

## **FAA Board meeting minutes**

Wednesday, May 6, 2015

All Purpose Room

Charlotte Street Arts Centre

Present: Sabine Campbell, Derek Davidson, Dan Gleason, Russ Hunt, Heather McTiernan, Forrest Orser, Penny Pacey, Cynthia Ryder, George Strunz

Visitor: David Ryder

Absent: Allen Bentley, Tony Merzetti, Jean Rooney

1. **Call to order** by Penny at 6:07

### **2. Adoption of the agenda**

Adoption was moved by George, seconded by Heather. Sabine suggested the Summer Student item should be considered under Artists in Residence, to make sure it doesn't get lost at the end of the meeting. After some discussion of whether a summer student would be exclusively working on the Artists in Residence, it was agreed to leave it under Other Business. The motion was carried.

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

Russ said that he had received substantial edits to the minutes from Penny in the afternoon, too late to include them, and so could not move adoption now. George moved to table the approval of the minutes to the next meeting. Russ seconded, and the motion was carried.

### **4. President's report**

Penny said she had been approached by the representative of the Multicultural Association regarding a \$25,000 grant to acclimatize new or non-English-speaking seniors to the community. There was a suggestion we might partner with the Association to offer art workshops that didn't rely on language. Extensive discussion ensued. Dan pointed out that the Beaverbrook Gallery already offers such a program, Thursday nights, and we might suggest the MCA approach them; they are generally undersubscribed and might welcome the participation. Penny said the Intercultural Association is already doing so but that they wanted more different art workshops with other partners. Cynthia asked what, specifically, we might do in such a partnership. Penny said that we might find the artists. We could provide partial assistance with the Intercultural association providing half or simply ask for a small fee to cover costs.

(we might also get a grant to support the work). Cynthia said she'd advise we be very cautious about committing ourselves to any expenditures beyond what we're already committed to – partly because of money, but also because of personnel: someone would need to organize and oversee such a project. Heather said she shares the concerns about personnel, and wondered if

we could maintain the contact for a while, until we have a better idea where we stand. Penny said that it would have to be this year because of the restrictions of the Intercultural grant . Derek said that perhaps we could tell them that if they took the lead, we could offer some support. Penny said we could spread the word to artists. Heather wondered about the timeline; Penny said the MCA said ASAP and perhaps we could do one workshop and see if it works? Sabine suggested putting it under New Business for the next meeting. George agreed. Penny said that a contact of hers on another board had suggested we might want to do a strategic plan, and that she'd be interested in helping us do one; Penny wondered when we'd done the last one. Sabine said we'd done one, back when Maggie McLaughlin was president, and that as far as she could see it had never had any consequences. George wondering if doing one might facilitate our ability to get grants; if it would, it would be worth pursuing; if not, not. Derek wondered if having a strategic plan might help us make decisions like whether or not to partner with the MCA. He said he had had some experience with strategic plans in government, and usually they involved finding out what management wanted to do and recommending that. The question of cost was raised: Penny said her informant would do it for a tax receipt. Heather wondered whether we could have a look at the last strategic plan and see where we are? Penny suggested we table this; Sabine so moved. Cynthia seconded, saying that someone – Russ, probably – should find the old one. Motion passed.

Penny listed the programs in progress, and suggested we go around the table and ask people to identify their skill sets – such as, event planning/grant writing/it web design/communications/project, marketing/profile development, member engagement, management/accounting/education,/workshop delivery/fundraising, strategic planning/board governance – so that everyone might have a better idea who to ask for help in various circumstances. George said that we've already said which projects we're interested in working on, and Sabine said she thought skill sets would be established as we work on things. Penny said that new people don't know what the older members do, and vice versa. We went around the table. The secretary lost track of what people said. There was some discussion of the need for people to take leadership on various projects. Penny listed current committee memberships:

- Social media: Forrest, Penny, Derek, Bridget
- Web site: Russ, Tony, Jean, Cat
- Grants: Heather, Penny, Katie
- Gala: Sabine, Katie, George, Marie, Allen, Penny
- Speakers: Penny, Heather, Kim, Sabine
- Art in the Schools: Allen, Katie, Dan, Penny, Sabine
- Art off the Street: Penny, Peter, Forrest, Heather, Jean
- Member engagement: Heather, Penny, Renee, Marie

## 5. Treasurer's / Membership report

Cynthia summarized the statement for [April](#) and said she projected we'd have \$18,500 surplus if we don't spend money on initiatives other than those we're already committed to. We can always use grant money, she said, but we should remember that typically it doesn't cover all expenses. Heather asked whether we'd received a grant for a speaker series. Cynthia said that we hadn't, but that it should be a huge project and we should feel we can go ahead, with caution. She moved adoption of the report, Sabine seconded, and the motion carried.

## 6. Committee updates

**Art in the Schools: Penny / Allen.** Penny reported that Andrea is on leave for five months. We have one project completed. Cynthia said she had had an inquiry about whether the expense involved in having a criminal record check was an admissible expense. George wondered what the cost was. Someone said \$50 or \$25, and there was some discussion about whether it's cheaper in Oromocto, and whether you're required to get it locally. Cynthia said it was important that everyone in a classroom have it; we'd be liable otherwise. Cynthia moved that as a matter of policy we should cover it, as part of the supplies budget; Dan seconded, and the motion passed.

**Art off the Streets: Penny.** Penny reported that she had met with Warren Maddox, who had offered solutions to a number of problems; for instance, he said there was a room available that met all the criteria for security, etc., at the Victoria Health Centre. He would be thrilled to have the project underway and is open to suggestions for specifics. Sabine wondered if Forrest could get an article about the project in the *Gleaner*; he said he thought that was likely. George wondered if we should advertise for artists to be involved. Penny said that Sean Dunbar has indicated willingness to participate, but would not want his name or Picaroons connected to it. Cynthia suggested he could make a charitable donation to the FAA and we would simply use it to support that. Sabine wondered how we could find people to participate, and said she wondered about whether advertising was a good way; it might be better to approach people individually. Penny suggested doing a photography workshop with smartphones, as the men in the homeless shelters all have good ones and said Peter Gross was interested in that. There was some discussion of a number of projects, including "Dudes," a national support program for homeless men, that Gross' son is involved in. It was agreed to hand off specific decisions to the committee.

**Speaker series: Sabine.** Sabine reported on the Gray talk, which had a small audience but which was clearly valuable, and the library venue was a good one. She said if anyone had ideas for further talks, they should let her know. It's not onerous, or expensive, to organize, she said, and wondered how many we should plan on doing. Heather suggested we might partner with other organizations that might have ideas – the city, or the library, for instance. She reported later that it cost about \$250 for the honorarium, travel and the room.

**Grants: Heather.** Heather said there was another city grant application coming up soon, and wondered what we wanted to focus on. We should talk with Angela and make decisions at the next meeting. Heather said she was looking for potential grants that we might have overlooked. One that's coming up in the fall is the Fredericton Community Foundation. There was some discussion of the likelihood of our getting that one. Heather also said if anyone has ideas for in-kind contributions to specific projects, they should let her know.

**Artists in Residence: Derek.** Derek said we would need to have a jury soon, as the deadline for applications is coming up (the 14<sup>th</sup>). Also, start dates are a problem; there's a question whether the residences should start on Saturday or Monday. Cynthia said that the schedule suggested Monday morning would be best, with the handover of keys, etc., being Sunday

night. Derek said there would have to be some negotiation around schedules in specific cases. There was a question about whether more publicity was needed. Penny said there had only been one application; Cynthia said artists are always late with things like this and she expected lots of applications just at the deadline. Cynthia wondered about suggestions for jury members. There were a number – including Bruce Gray, Rebekah Chassé, Ros Rosenfeld, and others. Cynthia said that we'd need the jury to meet on the Saturday following the deadline. Derek raised a question about incomplete information on an application. Cynthia said the key is to be reasonable; if things can be clarified, fine; if it's someone whose work we know, that makes a difference; it's about being flexible. George wondered about the size of the jury; it was agreed that, as before, it would be three members. Heather wondered who is on the AiR committee; Penny said it was Derek, Penny, George, Sabina, and Heather. Penny said we need better signage at the Casemates and indicated that she had raised \$700 for this a few years ago which had not been spent. Heather suggested we should look for in-kind contributions for that. Cynthia said we should check to see what the city will allow there. It would, she said, be a good idea to get a general purpose sign to be used there and then for other events elsewhere; we might check with Jean for graphics. Cynthia moved that we investigate a customized banner based on the proposed new Web site, and that we'd prefer an in-kind donation, but otherwise be willing to spend up to \$350. Sabine seconded, and the motion passed.

**Gala: Sabine.** Sabine said that David Myles has refused our offer, and that she's leaning toward asking Alex Bailey again. She's booked the Charlotte Street Centre for two dates (October 8 and 15) and is waiting until we find the entertainment to confirm a date. George suggested Stan Carew and the Magpies; some discussion about whether they'd be appropriate ensued. George suggested Joel Miller and family members. Sabine said the committee would discuss all of those and others soon.

## 7. Other business.

**Summer student.** We need to advertise the position ASAP. Heather said the date in the application suggested a beginning in April, but we're actually starting in May. We'd need the student available on site to keep the shop open, so we would need to house the student there. The question is whether there's room for a secondary location at NB Arts, where Akou Connell has said there might be room if she only has one summer student, but not if she gets the two she's applied for. Heather wondered who would supervise the student; Cynthia said that Katie has regularly done that. We need to generate a list of tasks aside from overseeing the AiR process. There was more discussion of possible alternative housing. The NBCC was suggested, since they're just upstairs, but Cynthia said they are very tight about security. George wondered about the museum; Cynthia said she thought they were pretty serious about this. Penny said she would contact Akou about housing.

In additional business, Sabine said we never got to discussion of the closing exhibition. She said she thought the Library was the best site, and that we should do it with just this summer's artists and forget about the last couple of years. She said we need to apply to the library for the space. She wondered if Derek had had to sign a waiver when the exhibition of his work, which is currently in the library, went up. He said he wasn't clear about what was involved, but there

was something about a waiver in the emails exchanged.

Russ asked to have the discussion about the FAABOARD list from last meeting clarified; in Penny's edits she'd suggested there was a consensus decision to change the list to default reply-to-sender format, but he hadn't remembered that. What should he do? There seemed to be a consensus to try setting it to reply-to-sender, so he agreed to set it that way.

#### **8. Time and date of next meeting.**

As per our custom, the next meeting is to be on Wednesday, June 3, at 6:00.

#### **9. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38.

Russ Hunt  
Secretary