

FAA Board meeting minutes
Wednesday, May 18, 2016, 6:00 p.m.
The Pink House, 758 George Street

Present: Allen Bentley, Sabine Campbell, Katie FitzRandolph, Will Forrestall, Bruce Gray, Russ Hunt, Heather McTiernan, Tony Merzetti, Cynthia Ryder, George Strunz

Absent: Trudy Gallagher, Penny Pacey

1. Call to order by Katie at 6:04

2. Adoption of agenda

Since she hadn't had time to create an agenda, Katie said we could proceed by adapting the agenda from the last meeting. We would not need to confirm meeting times as that has been done; we will need to add Tony's report on the membership status of regular users of the *ARTSnews* notices and the proposed policy on travel and meals from Bruce and Cynthia. Other issues could be adapted as we proceed. Adoption of the amended agenda was moved by Sabine, seconded by Allen, and carried.

3. Minutes of April 13 board meeting

With Russ's note that there were three misspellings of "committee" to be corrected, acceptance of the minutes was moved by Cynthia, seconded by George, and carried.

4. President's report

Katie said that she had not had time to prepare a written report, but noted that she had been in touch with Jean, who had volunteered to orchestrate the jury for the Artists in Residence program, while away. The jury had been set up, but it has turned out that one member – Thomas Morgan Jones – cannot meet until May 30, which will be too late. Katie had suggested to Jean that she might try to contact Len Falkenstein. Russ suggested that Len might be busy with organizing NBActs, and that Lisa Anne Ross might be an alternative. So, he said, might Rebekah Chassé. Ilkay Silk was also suggested.

Katie also thanked Cynthia for attending the Tenants' meeting for the Barracks Shops. Cynthia said that the bad news was that the AiR booth was back down at the far end; nothing to be done about it. It was agreed that we need to find ways to make it more noticeable – a number of suggestions (the banner, a sandwich board, music, and beer tasting) were offered.

Katie moved acceptance of the report, Will seconded, and the motion carried.

5. Treasurer's report

a. Financial

Cynthia summarized the [April statement](#) and [list of cheques](#) as circulated on email. Grant money is in from the city for \$3500 towards the AIR, an amount of \$1500 from Downtown Fred is on its way in two instalments, one at the start of

June and one after Labour Day for the AIR. Direct deposit forms have been filed with Service Canada for the student funding grant payments. Looks good but don't get too excited until after we have our bills paid for the AiS and AoS and AiR projects. She moved that we establish an allowance for Jean, up to \$50, to cover expenses as organizer of the AiR jury. Bruce seconded, and the motion carried. Cynthia moved acceptance of the treasurer's report, Russ seconded, and the motion carried.

b. Membership report

We have 74 members as of May 15.

6. Website/Facebook

Russ reported that ,since he'd been out of town and then in hospital and confined to crutches, again nothing has been done about updating the Web site. He hoped to have something to report soon, but pointed out that the Web site is not as immediately important as other media, since it functions primarily as a repository.

Katied noted that the Facebook site seemed pretty impressive, especially because of the photos; Cynthia said she's learned that people simply don't read things there unless there are photos. She reported that she had found that the FAA once did have Twitter and Instagram accounts, but that they were three or four years old and established with a gmail account which we can't identify. After some discussion, it was suggested that perhaps this had been set up by a summer student, likely Rachel Watters. Russ said he might be able to verify that in back emails. In any case, Cynthia said, it mght be better to set up entirely new accounts, using an @frederictonartsalliance.ca address, so we'd know they'll be accessible in the future.

7. Pay for Bridget

Russ said he'd been in touch with her about the issue, and that she'd prepared a chart showing the various tasks involved in preparing the weekly *ARTSnews* and how much they'd increased over the past few years. He gave copies of the chart to the other members of the *ARTSnews* oversight committee (Katie and Tony) and said he thought we should organize a meeting of the committee and Bridget to discuss it, and that we could then bring back to the Board a recommendation about her compensation (and about going to the city to ask them to increase their support). Katie said she thought the city likely to be receptive. Thinking about the *ARTSnews* budget, Cynthia said we should be considering the gallery listings at the bottom of the newsletter, and asking those galleries to become members of the organization.

8. Programs/Issues

a. Artists in the Schools

Allen reported that Jean's doing amazing work on her project; we haven't received reports from other projects, but it seems they are all underway. The committee (Allen, Sabine, Trudy, Katie) is to meet tomorrow, he said, to do final drafts of the applications forms for next year.

b. Art Off the Streets

Bruce said that while he wasn't sure he was up to date on everything, he could report on his own project, which had been completed. He also brought the formal project report and handed it to Katie. He passed around some pictures of the final projects, engendering much enthusiasm. There was some discussion of possible newspaper coverage and a display at Government House. Sabine wondered how much of the design was the participants and how much his: Bruce said that while he'd guided them, and showed them some previous examples of cedar shingle art, that the designs were their own. Sabine moved that we congratulate Bruce on this wonderful project; Will seconded, and the motion carried.

Other projects, Bruce said, are still to be reported on. He said while the pieces produced are strong, the project is really about the chance to work with these people, and the takeaway is fundamentally how they feel about it, and themselves, afterward. It was suggested that someone should interview them. Sabine suggested Lori Gallagher at the *Gleaner*, and said she'd speak with her about it. Katie wondered if Bruce were willing to share the final report with the board. Bruce said she should read it and decide; he would provide a digital copy, but thought some discretion should be exercised in its distribution, as it was drafted for internal use. Russ said if it were available as a digital copy, he could easily put it up on the board Web site, where it would be accessible only to the board.

c. Gala

Sabine reported that the date's been set as October 21st (a Friday), and that Alex Bailey's band is confirmed (they're charging \$200 more than last time, which still doesn't seem expensive). All in all, things are moving along well.

d. Project with the Craft College

Katie reported, in Trudy's absence, that it was all going well; the Keith Parent lecture (on the 26th of May at 7:00) will be co-sponsored by the Craft College and the FAA, which means we'll pay for the setup and hall, and the Craft College folks will do all the work, including the poster (Katie has asked to see it before it's printed).

There was some question about the cost; Cynthia said it would be well under the \$1500 authorized at the [March 9 board meeting](#). Katie said the partnership with NBCC has lots of potential; Heather said we should probably make it into an annual event. Katie said Trudy will probably be reporting on it, and would circulate such a report.

e. Summer Student

Katie said we're approved for eight weeks, and will pay, as agreed, above minimum wage. The grant would cover CPP, etc. Tony asked how many hours a week it's for; Cynthia said 35. There was a question about how many applicants are in. Russ said he'd seen one. The deadline is May 25. Katie said we need to find a place for the student to work; we've used Renaissance College, but recently they've not had room; and the Arts Board has hosted, but they are in limbo at the moment (Akou wouldn't commit because she's leaving, and no replacement has

been appointed). A number of possibilities were suggested: the Beaverbrook Gallery (but it's under construction, Will pointed out), St. Thomas, the Craft College, City Hall (George reminded us that Mayor O'Brien, at the election forum, had mentioned the possibility), a downtown business with space (Katie pointed out that we can't rent, but we can offer a charitable donation receipt). Sabine volunteered to draft a notice for the *ARTSnews* inviting people to donate a work space. It would need to have internet access, but probably not necessarily a phone, as a student would likely have a mobile. Katie said it was great that we have the funding, because managing the AiR project is a substantial task, and difficult to orchestrate in the absence of a summer student.

9. Committee lists

It was agreed it wasn't necessary to revisit this.

10. Other business

a. Tony reported on what he'd learned about which people or institutions posting notices in the *ARTSnews* are members. He distributed a table showing how many notices from each source had been published in the first four months of this year. Extensive, and intense, discussion ensued. Many suggestions were made, including that we invoice institutions (as we do the Playhouse); or write them and explain the situation the FAA is in; that higher membership fees might be asked of those who use the service more (an "advertising membership"). Many considerations were voiced: that we're not an advertising venue, but a community service; that some of the people with notices may not even know the notices exist (e.g., Cineplex); that many of those apparently sponsoring a notice – e.g., venues like Wilmot United or the Cathedral – may not actually have anything to do with the events; that in fact it's not clear who's responsible for many notices (e.g., St. Thomas University sponsors events under a half dozen different names, such as STU Jazz, the Black Box, Theatre St. Thomas, etc.); that requiring some people to join might mean they wouldn't put notices in any more, which lowers the value of the newsletter. Heather said it seemed clear we need to refer this to an *ad hoc* committee to sort out and make proposals for getting more money from the *ARTSnews* without losing subscribers, and so moved. Katie suggested that Cynthia and Tony might be on such a committee; they agreed. Russ and Will volunteered as well. George seconded the motion, and it carried.

b. Bruce and Cynthia explained the draft travel and food policy (copies of [their report](#) had been circulated on email). Even more extensive and intense discussion ensued. Questions were raised, among other things, about: whether people wouldn't try to game the limits; whether the process were too complicated; whether there was a contradiction between asking for trip logs and determining mileage by Google Maps; whether it made sense to tie everything to gas prices when really mileage traditionally covered other matters (depreciation, etc.); whether the problem hadn't already been solved elsewhere – e.g., by the province or private company policies; whether it would make sense to ask for fuel receipts;

whether the amount of money would ever make enough difference to justify the complexity of the process; whether people were actually going to be driving a thousand kilometers as part of any FAA project.

An attempt was begun to edit the document line by line, and abandoned. After more discussion, Katie proposed that we should just say we'll pay 25 cents a kilometer and leave all the parameters and conditions out. This seemed to be agreed. Katie then said that the application form for the AiR program would need to be adjusted to refer to this forthcoming policy; Bruce said that had already been done.

Bruce explained the rationale for the food policy; Cynthia said this was to anticipate issues if people are looking for reimbursement after the fact. Most such matters can be solved, it was agreed, simply by asking approval from the board in advance – e.g., by approving expenditures that Jean might encounter in organizing the Jury, or that Katie might incur by paying for a summer student's lunch.

11. Next meeting

As agreed, the next meeting will be June 8, at 6:00, in the Co-op board room.

12. Adjournment was agreed at 8:10.

Russ Hunt
Secretary