

FAA Board meeting minutes
Wednesday, November 14, 2018, 5:15 p.m.
Film Co-op Board Room
Charlotte Street Arts Centre

Present: Allen Bentley, Sabine Campbell, Will Forrestall, Katie FitzRandolph, Russ Hunt, Kitty Maurey, Tony Merzetti

Absent: Krishna Khaitan, Heather McTiernan, Penny Pacey

1. Call to Order

Katie called the meeting to order at 5:32. It was noted that George had resigned from the board via an email. Regrets were extended from everybody; George's long service to the FAA is valued and his counsel is going to be missed by all of us.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Approval was **moved** by Will, **seconded** by Sabine, and, after Katie noted that she'd like to add Board Members to the Other Business item, **carried**.

4. Minutes of October 3 board meeting

Approval of the minutes was **moved** by Russ, **seconded** by Kitty, and, after a concession that until recently the date of this meeting had been wrong, **carried**.

5. Treasurer's report

Tony summarized the monthly statement (the "boring part") and the forecast (the cheque register had been circulated). Sabine asked about Gala ticket receipts (total? worse than last year?). Tony said he would address that in the report on the Gala. Sabine wondered about how in general we compared to last year; Tony said that some general figures are in the forecast, where figures from last year are compared with the current ones. He pointed out that there was a substantial decline in ticket sales but that income from the auction was comparable. Sabine said she was surprised, but relieved. There was some discussion of who bought what, and of the theory that the people who had bought tickets were, in fact, the ones more likely to bid. The report on the Gala, he noted, explicitly compares the numbers to last year's. Turning to it, he noted that the \$300 charitable donation was from Brigid Grant, who donated it because her piece had not sold. He also observed that the CSAC technician was more expensive, but everyone agreed he was much better. Kitty wondered whether, if we had actually sold more tickets, we'd have sold them to people who weren't coming to buy in any case. There was some discussion of this point. Tony **moved** acceptance of the report; Sabine **seconded**, and the motion **carried**.

6. President's report

Katie said that the AiR exhibition was down, but that that was about all she had to report, as she has been preoccupied with other matters for the last few weeks. She said there'd be more to report next meeting.

7. Schools Program

Will said that he, too, had little to report; that there has not been much action. Sabine wondered whether there were fewer applications this year; Will said that it seemed so. Katie noted that we still have more money, so we could accept some more. Sabine wondered how – whether we might issue a new call? Approach friends who are teachers or artists? Katie and Kitty agreed that going to individuals

seemed the best way. There was some discussion of how that might work, and some suggestion of people who might be approached.

8. Grants

There was no report.

9. Streets program

Will asked for the name of the person in charge; Katie said it was Warren Maddox. She also said that Marcus Kingston might be interested in a project. Sabine said she understood Stephen Scott might be interested, and would be good; Will agreed, saying he has indicated interest in a project involving three sessions. Sabine thought that wasn't many; Katie said that it really depends very profoundly on the clientele: sometimes you have a group that might be interested in going on, sometimes not. Katie said that Stephen and Warren should get together. Will asked for Warren's email and phone; Katie had them.

[At this point Tony suggested we might rerun the call for proposals for Art in the Schools in the *ARTSnews*; it was agreed this would be a good idea.]

10. Artists in Residence report and exhibition stuff

Katie said it seemed enough to say that we had a successful season and will do it again next year. Sabine asked whether there's been a report from the city; Katie said not yet.

11. Gala 2018

Sabine said we've pretty well gone through this, and said that board members should be thinking about what we might do to revitalize the Gala. People who come regularly report enjoying it, she said, but we need to find ways to widen its appeal. She said that a friend in Nova Scotia had expressed interest in one or two items, but couldn't make it to Fredericton, and wondered about whether there weren't a way to allow for distance bidding. Tony said he'd actually had someone who couldn't be there say she'd have bid up to a specific amount, but that nobody had been authorized to do the bidding. Sabine noted that having that happen might influence others to start the bidding, and drive it a bit higher. Kitty asked whether we posted pictures of the items online. Sabine said some were on Facebook; Russ said he thought Facebook items tend to sink down out of sight, and it would be better to have them on the Web site, where they're right in front of you until they're taken down. Sabine noted that we sometimes receive donations, especially for the silent auction, from people who are downsizing, and it tends to make it feel like a yard sale. Tony wondered if we should have a policy that says we don't necessarily accept every donation. Sabine said it hasn't been a great problem and the committee's okay with simply turning things down that don't seem appropriate. She noted that the Gala has really been our sustaining fundraiser, and remembered George Strunz talking about desperate fundraising enterprises after we lost the sustaining grant from the province. We need to preserve it. She raised the question of whether anybody else thought, as George had, that John Leroux seemed a little rushed this year, and had sometimes not started the bidding low enough, to sort of kickstart the process. Others agreed that it had seemed a little perfunctory. There was general satisfaction with him as an auctioneer, but people wondered whether someone might raise this issue with him. Allen said he could do that; Russ said that he wasn't there, but it might be possible for him to raise with John as something that had been said to him.

12. Other business

We need, Katie said, to be looking for potential Board members. Sabine wondered whether Cynthia might be coming back; Katie said not this year. A number of names were suggested during an extended discussion, during which Katie noted that we really need to be looking for people outside of the usual

small circle. Russ wondered whether we were looking for people who might start now, before the AGM, but Kitty said it's worth remembering that people tend to be pretty busy before Christmas. Sources of names were suggested; Katie noted that we got Krishna through the Chamber of Commerce. Russ wondered whether we could check with Planet Hatch and see if someone from there is interested. Sabine wondered whether Krishna might suggest someone. Russ said we need to look at areas we don't currently have representation from – e.g., drama, music, or the CBC (noting that Barb Roberts had been on the board for years and had been very effective). This all segued into a discussion of *The Bookshop*, at which point . . .

13. Adjournment

On motion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:28.

Russ Hunt
Secretary