

FAA Board meeting minutes
Wednesday, January 16, 2019, 5:15 p.m.
Film Co-op Board Room
Charlotte Street Arts Centre

Present: Don Bossé, Sabine Campbell, Will Forrestall, Katie FitzRandolph, Russ Hunt, Krishna Khaitan, Kitty Maurey, Tony Merzetti, Gary Weekes

Absent: Allen Bentley, Heather McTiernan, Penny Pacey

1. Call to Order

Katie called the meeting to order at 17:29.

2. Introductions

New member Gary Weekes was introduced.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Katie noted that she had added “Membership” under “new business;” Don **moved** approval, Krishna **seconded**, and the motion **carried**.

4. Minutes of December 12 board meeting

Approval of the minutes was **moved** by Russ, **seconded** by Krishna, and **carried**.

5. Treasurer’s report

Katie postponed consideration of the report, as Tony had indicated he might be late to the meeting but would attend..

6. President’s report

A short report had been circulated via email. In discussion of it, Katie noted that the summer student grant has been submitted, and wondered what we need to do to actually connect with the SEED program. Gary noted that the SEED process used to be a lot more straightforward. Tony said his understanding was that you upload the job description to the site and then get applications from holders of SEED grants. Russ said that there wasn’t much point in advertising the job outside the SEED process, because the chances that someone who saw the ad would have a SEED grant are remote (we’d had a number of applicants last year, none of whom had grants). Kitty said it seemed we should upload early. Katie agreed and said she would explore how that works.

Katie also said that she had been in touch with Planet Hatch about providing a site for a summer student (or students) to work, and also asking whether they could suggest someone who might replace Tahlia on the FAA Board. Adam Peabody, from there, is to be in touch. She also said she’d been in touch with the Chamber of Commerce, asking if they could recommend someone as good as Krishna has been to serve on our board. She confirmed, as well, that Myrna Gunter has said she is willing to serve on the Board. There was extensive discussion of possible nominations to the board. Russ suggested that this should be handled by creating a nominating committee. Tony raised the consideration that in staffing the Board we need to think about the role of the FAA in advocating for public issues affecting the arts. Don wondered about considering political activism, reporting an occasion when he’d received no response from an agency to which he’d been referred, for information on the arts, by the government. Further names were suggested, with a view to getting representation from the Playhouse or the Beaverbrook Gallery. Katie is to make contact with potential candidates.

At this point Krishna took a moment to express his gratitude for the chance to serve on the Board, and to explain that his resignation was driven by the dramatic expansion of his job. He hoped he'd been able to contribute to our work, and regretted that he couldn't continue on the Board, though he would support us. Katie said that he had been an extraordinarily valuable member of the board, and she hoped we could find ways to continue to access his expertise, and that he should consider himself invited to the usual board pot luck after the AGM. At this point Krishna left the meeting.

After some further discussion of potential Board members, Katie **moved** approval of the report, Kitty **seconded**, and the motion **carried**.

5a Treasurer's report

Tony having arrived during the discussion, he summarized the monthly [statement](#) and the [forecast](#) (the [cheque register](#) had also been circulated). He noted that the actual financial situation is much better than the projection, in part because of the successful Gala and because of our success in getting grants. We are, he said, in pretty good shape. He is still waiting to hear about the issue of the HST refund, which he'd discussed last month.

The question of the fate of the as yet unspent funds for Art Off the Streets was raised; it's not clear whether there are deadlines. Katie said that the government is aware that the process is uncertain and that firm schedules are usually not possible because of the nature of the clientele. Tony said that they are willing to trust us to spend the money appropriately. Tony **moved** acceptance of the report; Sabine **seconded**, and the motion **carried**.

7. [Schools Program](#)

Will said that the Bliss Carman project is proceeding well; they'd like us to visit if possible. Katie said that the project, Aboriginal Images, under the direction of Natalie Sappier, was very impressive. There was discussion of the issue, [raised on email](#), of the cost of materials for T-shirts. Tony noted that it's a pattern recently that the costs for materials tend to run higher than the estimates, and wondered if we should reconsider the process. Katie noted that we've raised the stipends for artists, and that might mean there's less for materials, as the target is about \$1000 per program. In this case, she said we haven't heard back yet regarding our questions about costs. Don wondered about whether there is a budget that is part of the application; if so, we might ask that in each case they include a quote from a supplier. He said it was his experience that shopping around for art supplies almost always means you can get a better price, and suggested that we could find a way to encourage that – perhaps by getting a list identifying suppliers we could make suggestions. After extensive discussion, Katie said that the best approach would probably be to raise the issue with Beth, as it's really the school district who do most of the hands-on administration of the program.

After some discussion of the current three programs, Katie introduced a proposal from the local chapter of the Canadian Federation of University Women to nominate the FAA in a semiannual \$4000 competition for projects to advance the arts. They think it should be in the schools. We would have to come up with the project. Gary said we would need to invite schools to come up with projects. Don noted it would be a good idea to involve the high schools because they are much more likely to have the infrastructure to propose and conduct such a project, given that there are actually art teachers and administrative structures there. Tony interjected that there are persistent problems in the administration of the schools program because the information about the project, personnel, costs, etc., seem to be randomly distributed and hard to ascertain.

Katie wondered if we should take this on. Sabine said we need to have a person who'll volunteer to explore it. Don said he'd be willing to conduct an exploration, starting with asking Beth Christie if she has suggestions. Katie said it would be preferable to have it in the elementary and middle schools, because our main motive is to increase the presence of art in the schools, and that's where it's most wanting. After more discussion of the possible project, Katie wondered if it would be

good to involve Natalie Sappier, who's doing such a fine job at Bliss Carman. Don said that there is certainly significant interest in indigenous art in the schools. Katie said it seems clear we should explore the possibility; if we can inject \$4000 into the schools on behalf of art, it would be worth doing. It was agreed that Don should explore it.

8. Grants

In Heather's absence, Katie said that she's continuing to work productively at the various grants.

9. Art off the Streets program

Will reported that there is a meeting scheduled for this week; Katie said he should keep us posted on email.

10. Artists in Residence

Katie noted that we should be planning this: for instance, we will need a new "theme." A number of people suggested, apropos of the fuss about Officers' Square, "Trees." Katie said she would look through last year's application form and see what needs to be done.

11. Gala 2019

Katie said we need to start planning for 2019. Sabine said she would be happy to be involved, but won't chair it this year. (At this point Don excused himself as he had a practice to conduct.) Katie wondered about dates for the Gala; after some discussion it was set for October 17th, with the 24th as a backup. Some discussion ensued about the possible problem of proximity to the CSAC haunted house exercise for Hallowe'en. It was agreed that a full week ahead would be sufficient.

12. Other business

a. AGM

It was agreed that the AGM should be held on February 27th, depending on availability of the meeting room.

b. Membership

Russ noted that we would normally at this time of year be conducting a membership drive, since all the memberships expire at the end of the year. He wondered if we need to reconsider what the function of memberships is. It was agreed that the issue needs discussion at greater length than we had immediately.

c. President's schedule

Katie noted that she will be away from May 12 to June 15, a time when we'll need to be hiring and training students, so we should be planning for that.

13. Adjournment

On motion, the meeting was adjourned at 18:46.

Russ Hunt
Secretary