

## Northampton Arts Council

9 May 2023

### Meeting was remotely held on Zoom

**Present:** Brian Foote, Garrett Williams, Jo Ella Tarbuton-Springfield (Jada), Kaye Carroll, Jesse Hassinger, Mi Belitsky, Eamonn Edge, Pete Olsen, Thulani Davis, Danielle Amodeo

**Regrets:** Dana Osterling, Alyona Skripka, Anna Polesny

### Municipal Meeting for the month of May

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm.

Reading public comment letter from Doris Madsen:

[Link to email](#)

No public is in attendance outside of the council members

7:10pm Jesse Hassinger moves to approve minutes from 4/11/23's meetings; votes yay: Jesse, Garrett, Jada, Kay, Mi, Eamonn, Pete; abstain: Danielle, Thulani; votes nay: none.

7:11 - Open up Kim Carlino Traffic Box Design Proposal for approval

Danielle: Is there a precedent for a private citizen to commission public art?

Brian: DPW has final say on anything that happens to DPW property, but no other scenario - there is no public funds being spent; possible idea of shopping the design around to the people who live in the immediate area.

Peter: Concerned that latex paint will not stick.

Conversation about medium.

Danielle: could we approve the concept and design and trust the artist to follow through with community engagement and medium?

Brian: Yes, artist has been active in the community for a while.

Jesse: Moves to approve the concept and design and

Votes yay: Mi, Danielle, Garrett, Pete, Kay, Thulani, Eamonn, Jada, Jesse; no abstentions; no nay votes.

7:28 - Poet / Youth Poet Laureate Updates

Garrett: Brian, Jesse, and Garrett met to discuss timing on choosing the poet and youth poet laureate; decided that the PL should be chosen first.

Jesse: Confirmed three people to be part of the search committee and now are working to create a shortlist.

Garrett: Community has said that now is not a great time to be choosing a YPL and the fall would be better for school.

Thulani: Would it be better to do a YPL for the summer and another for the school year, with the summer YPL to be able to re-apply.

Garrett: Worth considering.

Danielle: Who is the committee to find the PL? Rather than speed things up for the YPL, slow it down to make sure we have the best PL and work with them to ensure that we have the best applicants for the YPL. Summer-long campaign for the YPL and make the decision

Jada: May 18th ELLPAC would be great to have applications available for that event at JFK.

Garrett: To answer some questions: YPL allows for people to apply w/5 pieces, 5 pages, or 5 minutes of video performed poetry, then collect a group, including the PL, to vote on the YPL.

Jesse: PL: reached out to a number of people to send in their own shortlists (incl. Floyd Cheung, Neftali Duran, Karen Skolfield), bringing those to the committee who will also add their own shortlists (Matt Donovan, Jason Montgomery, Charlene Choi)

Danielle: We should have a guideline that we can use to make the choices for the PL, perhaps that can use the grant-round voting guidelines moving forward.

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1XA\\_mHn7wWu1\\_9PvYKBvKFR9bFHZXozWTvQaBM7DP7nc/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1XA_mHn7wWu1_9PvYKBvKFR9bFHZXozWTvQaBM7DP7nc/edit)

Danielle wants to make sure that we are really clear about what our priorities and guidelines are for the selection process so that the whole Arts Council can speak about it and stand behind it.

Further discussion; leading to a general agreement that we should take the process slow and intentionally.

Peter: Can we table this and move on?

8:17 - ArtsEZ

Brian update on ArtsEZ grant; about 7 applicants, will continue to do outreach.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-jfUaZxwXdZ5A1P77QndF6VnQOoM5WDLQyYKe6P-IXw/edit>

Deadline May 19th; May 22nd to get the scoresheets together for the Council; 1-2 review meetings and 1 allocation meeting. Top 50% by June 13th and assign presenters for the 20th.

8:29 - Upcoming events:

Saturday is Public Arts Festival Community Mural Painting Party

Collider Fest at Bombyx

Summer Concert Series will happen in August in Polaski Park - 2 live bands, salsa DJs & live salsa dancing.

Masonic Street Live Saturday live shows; Sunday salsa dancing

Between Northampton Brewery & Parking Garage, Thursday night live music (Bands on Brewster).

Performance 33 in the work.

Taste of Northampton.

8:39 - New business

Arts Cabaret - an invitation to a lot of the artists who have been funded by the NAC to make a really fun event to coincide with the due dates for the next grant rounds.

Danielle - any comments to Doris Madsen's email that was read at the top of the meeting?

Eamonn: does the council as a whole need to do more or is this in the rear-view?

Danielle: "Doris says in the chat: I am open to meeting with any or all. You just need to be aware of open meeting."

Thulani: this is a little superfluous at this point; Doris' work has been literally plastered all over the newspapers at this point. We are not encompassing the other artists at this point; it is still all just Doris. Are we reaching out to the other artists who were affected? I don't think it is our responsibility as an arts council to continue meeting just with Doris. If she still insists on having a forum it should be more than just Doris.

Danielle: she did name to me that it would be useful to the community to engage in a forum with all of the people involved.

Kaye: It isn't our responsibility to mediate between Doris and Jason. Over half of the council were not present with the biennial decision so we should not be rehashing this.

Jesse: I second Thulani that it should not be the council's place to re-open Pandora's Box.

Kaye: We can speak about what the future of the biennial would look like, that is certainly in the NAC purview.

Thulani: Can we close this chapter and move to take on new challenges and new experiences?

Eamonn: I think most everyone is in agreement that we can move on and close this chapter.

9:02 - Eamonn makes a motion to close the meeting; Jada seconds; votes yay: Kaye, Jesse, Mi, Jada, Eamonn, Peter, Danielle, Thulani, ; votes nay: none. Motion passes, meeting closed at 9:02pm.

Jesse Hassinger, Clerk