

## **Northampton Arts Council**

**13 July 2021**

### **Municipal and 501C3**

**Present:** Dana Osterling, Michael Abbatiello, Ellen Augarten, Lori Steiner, Thulani Davis, Eamonn Edge, Jesse Hassinger, Kent Alexander, Freeman Stein (B), Danielle Amodeo (B), Kathy Service (Inc)

**Absent:** Ashlynn Cradic, Esther White (Inc), George Myers (Inc)

Danielle made the announcement that this meeting is being held via Zoom and is also being audio and video recorded. The meeting is being audio and video recorded.

No public present or public comments.

### **Meeting Minutes Approval**

Minutes of Meeting on 8 June 2021: Freeman noted that he is no longer on the Equity Sub-Committee along with Rachel but Dana was on this and then somehow was left off, but she clarified, and she is actually still on this Sub-Committee. Motion made, seconded and passed unanimously to with corrections.

Point of clarification as to municipal VOTING MEMBERS: Eamonn Edge, Lori Steiner, Freeman Stein, (Treasurer), Danielle Amodeo, (Chair), Rachel Hart, Ashlynn Cradic, Michael Abbatiello, Kent Alexander, Jesse Hassinger, (Secretary), Dana Osterling, Thulani Davis

### **Municipal Meeting 7:07 mini**

**Municipal meeting called to order at 7:07 pm**

#### **Subcommittee Updates:**

Danielle further clarified and explained the role of chair(s) of the committee(s). Each committee would be responsible to set their own agenda (giving examples). There were commentaries about procedural questions which produced a lively conversation particularly with regard to cultural change. Updates with proposed subcommittee chair designations. The proposal is for each group to meet and define agenda, do background work, and present update at the meetings. The goal is for members to take more power and realign values. We hope to have a Council Retreat to work on these issues. Reflection as a part of the process. We do not have a timeline as to when to meet in person; to confer on where and mask use in August.

#### **Biennial Update**

Zoe is (very sadly) no longer in this committee due to other demands. Ellen was uncertain as to number of submissions. In August a facilitator (TBD) will be paid to work with the jurors to conduct the reviews and more. This person will need to be quite computer competent to accomplish what is needed, using artcall.org. The website was complicated and there were

issues with screen sharing with jurors and ability to 'see' the name of the visual artist /poet. The jurying will take place in August and September. Ellen did talk to Faith at the Library about dates and responsibilities, especially giving public health recommendations. Kathy will work to secure volunteers from art drop-off through events and art pick-up. Planning to use Provisions for reception again if possible.

### **Cinema-**

No meeting as no festival until next year.

### **Equity-**

Concerns voiced about the sense that "how equity just fell off the map" with an update on the history of the equity committee & its past projects. Rachel is no longer on the Arts Council. Conversation as to expectations, meeting time, and commitment Jesse talked about the name, Transperformance, and the need to vote for a name change as it shouldn't be used for a "group of musicians who have no connection with Trans performers". The history of this 30 year event was outlined and name originally was using trans to mean "crossing a identity" or musicians/band taking on the role of other musicians/bands not regarding gender. Initially it was proposed that it would happen next year with thoughtful discussions as to community input on name change which would include a public announcement. Although the PR has already "gone out", the members wanted that any further public communication should abstain from using Transperformance and a choice of name will be forthcoming. From now on, the conversation and PR will simply be Performance: Unsung Heroes - Live Tribute Music Fundraiser

### **Grant Round Update → Fundraising**

All checks were distributed with positive feedback. At the next meeting about grants, the Equity Committee will be invited to assist this committee as to language connected with this process (from announcements to reviews and decisions). Freeman will convene this meeting.

### **Board membership**

Rachel Hart is moving so resigned. We will keep her on the Volunteer list. This means there is another vacancy, so we need to reach out to potential members. A retreat is also being supported and Kent volunteered to work upon this.

### **Public Arts**

Jesse reported that there was good feedback on the boxes and people liked the walls. Next possible activity which Brian is exploring is art on the Bus Shelters so needs to connect with the PVTA. Brian is still trying with building owners to secure places for the public art. There was success with lighting under the bridge.

### **Online Communication**

No new updates except now on second step of design process for new logo. Brian reported upon the latest update and shared the image. The final version is 90 % and a little more modern.

### **Poet Laureate**

We have our first Youth Poet Laureate: Rio Santos! More to follow.

### **School Update**

Efforts are still underway with communicating with the various schools. Thulani, Freeman and Lori provided updates on latest efforts and accomplishments.

### **Volunteer Committee**

Working with Brian as to Performance needs; however, Brian has a cadre of former volunteers; plus, this is an event during which the Council members volunteer. Kathy will be looking for Council volunteers for activities connected to the Biennial with set-up, at the event, and break down. The big push will be First Night.

This meeting concluded at 9:37 pm

### **Inc**

Meeting commenced at 9:37 pm.

### **COVID 19 Relief Funds-**

Already discussed.

### **Events**

Summer Park Series starts! All members are encouraged to show support and come to series starting Aug 6<sup>th</sup>. Nate from Cornucopia donated \$3000 towards Summer Park Series and Performance, in addition to the "roundup" (like River Valley Market does and did for us) at the register at Cornucopia. Signature Sounds will have a booth at these events and reciprocally we will have one at the Green River Festival.

No other updates.

Meeting Concluded at 9:40.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Service, Inc Board Clerk