

ATTENDING: Peter Jacobi, Jean Kautt, Martina Celerin, Alain Barker, Abby Henkel, Lynn Schwartzberg, Sally Gaskill

ABSENT: Craig Widen, Jan Grant, Paul Sturm

EX OFFICIO: Miah Michaelsen (City staff liaison), Susan Sandberg (City Council)

GUESTS: Lorraine Martin (Lotus)

Miah called the meeting to order at 5:06 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lorraine Martin of Lotus commented that she was interested in hearing the BAC's 2014 priorities.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Nov 14, 2013

Peter motioned to accept the minutes as submitted; Abby seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Sally asked that we revisit the December minutes and they will be presented at the next meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT – presented by Miah

402 account: maintenance monies were debited for repairs to Bloomington Banquet. Specifically, electrical issues were resolved and the foundation was repaired. We are investigating skateboard guards and the BAC 402 account might need to pay for that in the future.

403 account: an increase in the account reflects IAC grant monies for a presenter. The person is from Columbus, Ohio and will be speaking about finances for artists.

No change in the grant fund.

STAFF REPORTS – reports by Miah, as per email, and in addition:

Public Art

South Walnut Street: the lawyers have the contract and we are waiting for approval.

Transit project: we have the agreement for the transit project. The benches and bike racks are on track.

4th Street project: we are waiting for a thaw in order to do some "greening" of the areas.

Upcoming Meetings

The BEAD meeting on the 27th will focus on understanding international students and their interests in the arts in Bloomington. It will include ideas for marketing strategies for arts organizations to target international students. Miah also reminded us that Art of Chocolate begins on the 26th. The February exhibition in the atrium will feature the Lotus "Powers of Patterns" project. A reception will take place on February 7, which is a first Friday. Martina mentioned that she will be hanging her art in the atrium during the month of March.

Updates

Miah noted that Paul said that he has worked with the Grant Street Musician's Co-op. They are located in the A-frame building that is behind Soma. He has been working to mentor them. Specifically, he's been helping them put together a proposal for possible future funding from private or public funders.

The Creative Glass Guild, which has some members who work with the Great Glass Pumpkin Patch, is working to establish a hot glass studio in Bloomington. They would like to start brainstorming for board members. The meeting will take place on January 17th at 6:30. They would like help identifying people that might be interested in board service. They are looking for someone to be a mentor. Lynn is interested but she won't be in Bloomington on that day. Miah will forward her contact information. BEAD would be

delighted to see something like that happen in Bloomington. Sally suggested that Kyla Cox Deckard, director of Leadership Bloomington, might be a good candidate or would have good connections for folks interested in board service. Miah asked that any other thoughts are sent to her.

Miah has a new graduate assistant, Sarah Mihich, who spent some time working in Terre Haute. She has lots of experience with public art and will be starting with the BAC next month.

It was noted that Café Django is now closed. It is scheduled to become a brew pub and Jazz from Bloomington is moving to Topos.

Miah mentioned that we have a new deputy mayor. Alain asked Miah if she had met him yet :-)

Miah also mentioned that the BCT will be renegotiating their contract as per usual. This happens every three years. Sally asked if monies are stable. Miah mentioned that the monies requested are \$55,000 plus an additional \$24,000 for upkeep of the building. Also, the BCT is planning a stage extension in the hopes of being able to host larger musical ensembles such as the BSO. It was mentioned that there was a story in the Herald Times about the loss of the Pops, and that Danielle of the BCT had mentioned that they only had 2 to 3 inquiries over the holidays asking about the annual holiday concert.

NEW BUSINESS

Program Analysis

Most commissioners have not done a thorough reading of the report and so we will table the discussions until next month. Sally asked if the author could do a presentation for us or provide an executive summary.

BAC funding

At the December meeting we began a discussion of thoughts on the BAC funding for 2014. At present we plan to do one grant cycle that would take place in April. Miah has begun, but has not completed, a funding chart as to who is funding what in our region. We will need to finalize the guidelines and indicate whether there are any specific priorities for funding. Also needing to be decided is what would be done with remaining grant funds. Alain asked if we made a decision or an action plan at the last meeting. Miah mentioned that the Commission decided to think more about it. Miah also reminded us that these are reverting funds. They are meant to be grant funds to be bestowed to an organization as opposed to programming fund monies.

Discussion then moved to the need to balance "legacy" organization requests as compared to smaller or emerging organizations requesting smaller amounts of money. Miah had previously proposed several (three) potential project ideas. Alain recalled that we wanted to think about it in the context of the strategic plan. The commission spent a little time looking at the strategic plan. Sally noted that these new funding ideas are the direct result of the meeting with the mayor. Lynn added that the discussion to move to just one grant cycle is also a result of the meeting with the mayor. Alain clarified his understanding of the situation: the idea of going to one grant cycle per year would allow the commission to not be overwhelmed with the grant program which had taken over most of our focus. By being freed up from a second grant reviewing process the commissioners could spend the remainder of the time on something else. Abby had concerns; if we decrease our grants to just giving out \$10,000 for a whole year that is less in total per year to the organizations. It was mentioned that we need to think about whether the city wants to be a catalyst or should we be trying to reach out to do what the artists want. Miah mentioned a discussion with Paul about the challenge of funding emerging or riskier projects and organizations; they are often doing interesting work, but they aren't the types of organizations that typically get funding through these types of processes. Another question brought up was how are we going to measure success. Maybe we are looking for something that sparks something that then leads to something else. For example, if we give a few hundred dollars to a group of musicians it might lead to a short-lived event, but it might spark something else. Miah noted that about a quarter of the new businesses that opened in downtown 2013 were arts or creativity-based and in most cases, the city had not been involved directly. Alain noted though that we are

comparing very different things - we've been supporting sustainability in organizations and that what were talking about right now is the flash in the pan type of arts events that operate on a different level. We also need to think about how we are changing our personality as a commission and as a proactive group compared to just a supporting group. Martina mentioned that we really want to do both. Peter thinks that this would all be wonderful but we have only a total of \$20,000. Abby noted that she likes how much money we have given out in the past and what the organizations are doing with the monies. Lynn noted that we are all sad about the Print Collective but their business plan didn't make sense to us; they were not working with a sustainable model. Alain asked if it would be possible for us to say that after five years we like the grant model and now for example we want to do something else. Martina suggested that we give out the \$20,000 as grant as we have done in the past but just do it once a year and then use the \$13,000 in our other fund for other projects. Alain suggested that we spend a third of our time on grant proposals and that would leave two thirds of our time - and he asked what we would want to do with that time. Sally noted that we haven't discussed how the Public Art Master Plan (PAMP) fits into this idea. Miah noted that we don't have to spend the full \$20,000 on grants in this April round but could leave some in reserve for funding priorities later in the year.

The discussion moved to the grant evaluation process. Miah suggested that on the evening of the grant presentations we might want to consider having just a discussion of the projects and not focus on the scores. Peter suggested that we might consider doing two consecutive evenings. A grumble was heard in the room. Miah thought we might want to get it all done in just one evening. Further, Miah suggested that we could say that we have up to \$20,000 to give in the form of grants. Also we need to decide if we want a firm cut off score. Miah worked with Jillian and did a survey of the grant applicants that she shared with those at the meeting. Jean suggested sending a letter to each of the applicants and including a set of the comments to all the applicants. Sally asked if there is any movement on commission members. Miah noted that Craig and Jan were reappointed (mayoral appointees) and that Sally and Lynn (Council appointees) should be sure to reapply.

Meeting was adjourned by Miah at 6:21 PM

Respectfully submitted by Martina Celerin