

TOWN ARTS COMMITTEE
Open meeting DEC 11, 2012 - Selectboard Rm.
Minutes

Meeting called to order 4:02

Present: Mark Burke, Sarah Rice, Doug Cox, Stephen Dybas, Hugh Keelan, Kate Anderson, Barb Sontag,
Town Manager

One guest

Meeting confirmed warned, no minutes to approve.

Unfinished Business

Continuing discussion to readdress mission of TAC

Mark Burke describes TAC as a managerial interface, a "liaison between artists and town," not actually an arts committee. He offered the acronym LAMB: Liaison between Artists and the Municipality of Brattleboro.

Discussion:

Doug Cox said we should create 6 and 12 month goals and acknowledge our accomplishments including the NEA grant.

Barb Sontag stated that fundraising for specific projects is permitted through the town's financial structures. Not for profit, tax deductible donations, can also be made in the town's structures and examples include: West River Park and Friends of the Library.

Stephen Dybas said we should accept more presentations.

Barb Sontag reiterated that TAC is not likely to have a line item in town budgets, but separate accounts can be set up. She offered examples of such structures. She offered an unacknowledged benefit of TAC's existence is that it provides "an entity of the arts" to Brattleboro.

Mark Burke pointed out a major disadvantage that TAC does not have a dedicated staff contact who can manifest actions and results.

Kate Anderson agreed and offered that the goals which we vote and approve are not realizable without funding.

Sarah Rice affirmed that we should have some financial structures and participate in some town financial structures and proposed dedicated agenda periods to defining and achieving goals.

Doug Cox said the process for winning the NEA grant could be the model for achieving other goals. The committee should examine that process and from there agree on what goals are achievable.

Town Plan Arts Chapter

This is available online. Kate Anderson recommended that the committee read this again and recapitulated the history of this part of the Brattleboro Town Plan.

This is up for select board approval at the next meeting, Town Arts Committee to arrive at 5:30. Kate Anderson also noted that there were no changes to the last draft seen by TAC.

Vermont Arts Council Awards

Doug Cox moved and Kate Anderson seconded to send "signed letters of congratulation" to the recipients and Governor Shumlin.

Doug Cox commended those TAC members who had presented recipients of the Governor's Award and their excellent speeches.

Motion unanimously approved.

Resignation of Committee Member Kathryn Turnas

Kathryn Turnas resignation was acknowledged and accepted by the committee. The committee thanked and commended her for her excellent contribution and Sarah Rice had thanked her privately.

Other Business

Doug Cox inquired about the planning process for the new fire and police building design. Barb Sontag responded that town would hire a project manager and from there an architect would be chosen and public meetings would be announced and held. The input would then be taken back to the select board and handed to a Citizen's Committee who would take inclusive input from all town committees. Barb Sontag described functions and constitutions of Citizen's Input Committees. Kate Anderson related this process to the Creamery Bridge design committee.

Hugh Keelan inquired how the Town Arts Committee could and should interface with town projects with significant design elements. Hugh Keelan's opinion was that our primary appropriate function is with public art not with design or decorative elements in public projects.

Doug Cox encouraged TAC to make more frequent use of proclamation.

Stephen Dybas proposed and Sarah Rice seconded a motion to adjourn. This is approved and adjourned at 5:10.