

1 **Evanston Arts Council Meeting**

2 Tuesday, May 11, 2021, 6:30 PM

3
4 **Members Present:** Toby Sachs (Chair), Gay Riseborough, James Deeb (Vice-chair), Indira
5 Johnson, Judith Cohen, Alfonso Nieves Ruiz, Maasai Amewa, Melissa Molitor, Angela
6 Williams, William Jones, Lisa Graziose (Corrin)

7 **Members Absent:** Chantal Healey

8 **Staff Present:** Paulina Martínez (Assistant to the City Manager), Sat Nagar (Senior Project
9 Manager)

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11 1. GOVERNOR'S ORDER

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13 2. SUSPENSION OF THE RULES: MEMBERS PARTICIPATING ELECTRONICALLY OR BY
14 TELEPHONE

15 Mr. Amewa moved to suspend the rules. Mr. Deeb seconded the motion. Motion was approved
16 unanimously.

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18 3. CALL TO ORDER/DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

19 Mr. Sachs called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

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21 4. PUBLIC COMMENT

22 No public comment.

23
24 5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

25 A. Draft Minutes from April 13, 2021

26 Ms. Riseborough suggested changes to the minutes - adding context to the first item, and more
27 accurately reflecting her comments under the public art report. Ms. Riseborough moved to
28 approve the minutes as amended. Mr. Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried 10-0-1 Ms.
29 Graziose abstained, as she was not at the last meeting.

30
31 Ms. Johnson moved to approve the comments. Ms. Corrin seconded. Motion approved
32 unanimously.

33
34 6. PRESENTATIONS

35 A. Green Bay Road Street Improvements

36 Mr. Sat Nagar, Senior Project, gave a brief overview about the street improvements to be done
37 at the intersection of Green Bay Road and Central Street in the upcoming months. He
38 presented a rendering of the proposed improvements, discussed the safety precautions that will
39 be taken to secure the railing facing the street.

40
41 7. CONSIDERATION

42 A. Approval of Neighborhood Arts Grant

43 Ms. Martínez introduced the project and explained Kitchen Table Stories Project is requesting
44 funding to support the first celebration of Asian, South Asian, and Pacific Islander American
45 (ASAPIA) Heritage Month.

46
47 Ms. Molitor added the celebration will take place on May 22 at Fountain Square from 11 a.m. to
48 1 p.m. Downtown Evanston, Main Dempster Mile, Central Street, and other groups are co-
49 sponsoring the event. The funding would cover the performance by Taiko Drummers,
50 promotions, and materials for the community art project.

51
52 Mr. Amewa moved to approve. Ms. Riseborough seconded. Motion passed 9-0-2. Ms. Molitor
53 and Ms. Johnson abstained.

54
55 B. Approval of Funding Increase to Fountain Square Public Art Project
56 Ms. Riseborough explained the Public Art Working Group supports dedicating \$25,000 from the
57 Public Art budget to the Fountain Square public art project.

58
59 Mr. Amewa moved to approve. Mr. Deeb seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

60 61 8. DISCUSSION

62 A. Bright Night 2021 and Bright Night Liaison
63 Mr. Sachs asked for volunteers at the next meeting to lead the organization of “Bright Night for
64 the Arts”. He mentioned that we would like for the Arts Council to decide whether to have an in
65 person event or not by the September meeting.

66 67 9. COMMUNICATIONS

68 A. Cultural Fund Update
69 Mr. Sachs reported that 28 applications were received, and there were seven coaches who
70 helped out prospective applicants this year. He also reported that the judges met on May 8 to
71 discuss the applications and that went well.

72
73 B. Fountain Square Public Art Project Update
74 Ms. Martínez thanked Ms. Johnson for her help in putting the draft RFQ together, and asked for
75 verbal feedback.

76
77 Ms. Amewa asked when the RFQ would be released. Ms. Martínez said she needs to tighten
78 the language a little bit and secure the final leg of funding, before releasing the RFQ. Mr. Sachs
79 added that his goal is to be ready to release the RFQ in July.

80
81 C. Chair Update
82 Mr. Sachs announced that it was the last meeting for Ms. Cohen and Ms. Riseborough.

83
84 D. Public Art Working Group
85 Ms. Riseborough reported that there are three projects she is still working on: Noyes public art
86 project. City staff recommended exploring going back to the original design – a mural on the

87 Garage façade of the Noyes Street station. She expressed concern over painting a mural over a
88 corrugated façade. The second project is a public art donation, the “Ice Cream Throne”, for
89 which she is proposing a two-level squared concrete base. Last, she is working on another art
90 donation, which she proposed to go at the Reading Garden in the new Robert Crown
91 Community Center, however, the Library’s Executive Director asked to run it by the Library
92 Board first.

93

94 E. Good Neighbor Fund Working Group Update

95 Mr. Amewa reported they have met twice, and are working on draft guidelines. He expects a
96 few more sessions before presenting a proposal to the Arts Council.

97

98 10. ADJOURNMENT

99 The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.