Greater Dover Arts Council
Meeting, September 10, 2015
Minutes

Attending: Mayor Robin Christiansen, Sarah Zimmerman, Paul Janiga, Cynthia Witt, Cheryl Scheir, Caroline Greene, Chevis Anderson, and Margie Cyr. Guest: Riley Hays.

The Mayor welcome everyone to the meeting. He appointed Chevis Anderson Chairman of the Committee. Chevis will need to appoint a Vice Chair. Chevis hopes that everyone will stay on the committee to help out.

Sarah Zimmerman introduced Riley Hays. Ms. Hays is a Delaware Parks employee who is shadowing Sarah today.

Chevis shared that the Mayor's Arts Awards will be presented at the City Council meeting on Monday, October 12, 2015 at 7:30 PM. The winners, families, and members of the GDAC will be there. A reception will be held after the presentation.

Sarah moved that the Minutes of the May 21, 2015 meeting be approved. Cynthia Witt seconded. All were in favor.

The Kent County Court Art Exhibit: The Court has purchased the frames. Cheryl Scheir will work with this project. Chevis is working with collaborating partners to determine the next steps to receive the art work for the rotating exhibits.

Chevis has recommendations for committee members. The Mayor asked him to send biographies of the recommended people. The Mayor has three potential new members.

Mayor Christiansen would like Margie Cyr to serve as the Vice Chair of the Committee. Margie questioned whether she was an official member of the committee or staff liaison. The Mayor said she was officially on the committee. Caroline Greene made a motion to appoint Margie Cyr as the Vice Chair; Cynthia seconded. There were no other nominations. All were in favor.

Paul announced that his term on the GDAC had expired; and he believed he had given enough time to the Committee. The Mayor asked him to stay on. The Mayor reappointed Paul to the Committee.

New Business

Budget: The Mayor's office will assume the cost of the reception and the trophies. If the GDAC wishes to have an event other than the official City Council reception, this needs to be budgeted and approved by the Mayor. Budget requests need to be given to the Mayor no later than January. The Mayor reminds the members that it is a tight budget time. The challenge to the GDAC has been that there are no funds to accomplish the goals of the committee. Last year a special reception was held at the Biggs Museum. The previous year it was at Brian Miller's house. Previously a reception had been held at the Schwartz Theater. There may be organization that would like to sponsor such a reception. A special reception could be held at any time. October is Arts Month.

Caroline moves that we do not have a special reception this year. Cheryl seconds. It was asked if it were possible to have the award winners exhibit at the City Council meeting during the reception. It was agreed that there was not enough space nor time.

Margie suggested that the Library could host a Meet the Winners event. The two musicians and one author could demonstrate their award winning talents. Margie will contact them to determine a day and time for this event.

Meeting schedule: It was agreed that the GDAC will meet five times a year: every other month on the second Thursday at 3:30 PM. Meetings will take place: November, January, March, May, September. The November meeting will include budget discussions. There was discussion about an annual/organizational meeting.

Chevis announced that he has been hired as the Music Director at a charter school in Wilmington.

Caroline proposes that Mayor's Arts Awards as an agenda item for the January meeting.

There was discussion of the City's website. The GDAC needs better exposure. The Mayor's said that the City's site is being improved and one should see the improvements in a couple of months.

For the November meeting, Margie asked for a discussion of who we are and what do we want to do/be.

Cynthia would like to establish a methodology and time line.

Cheryl would like to brainstorm some ideas to create goals for the GDAC.

Paul Janiga would like to define where we want to focus our energies.

Caroline would like a list of what we have done and what we are doing.

Paul has been on the GDAC since 2006. He opened a discussion about the role of the GDAC. The City's First Friday event was a personal project started by Susan Johnston. The Mayor's Arts Awards and the Youth Arts Awards has been around a long time. The Kent County building Art Exhibit is another project that has been done.

Margie was asked to gather the past meeting minutes. Cynthia will write a synopsis of them.

Sarah asked if we have enough time for this discussion at the next meeting.

All members should be prepared to discuss their ideas for the GDAC and how do we accomplish our purpose.

Cheryl has a project she would like to suggest: individual GDAC members can give an informal award to artists they encounter. It could be called a "Good Show Award." This can be discussed at the next meeting.

Cynthia moved to adjourn. Sarah seconded. All were in favor.