

NEW DEAL CAFÉ
MEETING MINUTES
December 28, 2015
Call to Order: 6:35pm

Attendees:

Board: Michael Hartman (President), Frank Gervasi (Treasurer), Nancy Melandry (Secretary), Terri (Acton) Goodnow, Tom LeaMond
Audit Committee: Dorian Winterfeld, Mike Stark
Staff: Amethyst Dwyer (Bar Manager/Music Coordinator)
Visitors: Mike Rall, Jeremy Schuman, Tim Morgan, Alicia Deligianis

Approval and Prioritization of Proposed: Approved with following changes: Add New Business – Customer complaint regarding “Washington Report on Middle East Affairs” magazine in front room. Delete Solar Panels.

F. Gervasi/T. Goodnow - 2nd / Unanimous

Approval of Minutes: 11/30/15 minutes approved unanimously.

Reports:

President, Treasurer, Music Coordinator/Bar Manager (attached), Art Coordinator.

Old Business:

2016 Budget:

Motion: Approve 2016 budget (attached) with further discussion regarding payroll in Executive Session.

T. LeaMond / T. Goodnow – 2nd / Unanimous

Survey (T. LeaMond): 421 responses received so far. Survey will be closed to further responses 12/31/15 midnight.

New Business:

Customer Complaint regarding “Washington Report on Middle East Affairs” magazine in front room: Magazine described by customer as “anti-Semitic”. Discussion regarding appropriateness of referenced magazine in Café. Magazine has been dropped off at Café for several years free of charge; not a Café subscription.

Adjourned: 8:50pm (Followed by Executive Session)

Submitted by Nancy Melandry, Secretary

Friday February 19th, 2016

Bar Manager Report

Tom LeaMond has been hired as our newest bartender. Being the former Bar Manager he is an excellent fit and a real benefit to the cafe. Welcome, Tom!

Old Dominion's Oak Barrel Stout is our new beer on tap. It's a sweet, smooth and roasty stout infused with vanilla beans and oak chips. It was a favorite in the past and is sure to be a good seller.

The Nude Eel continues to be a very popular IPA. I have ordered a second major batch of 20 barrels.

Bar revenue in January was slow due to the cafe being closed on three weekend nights (New Year's Day and two for Snowzilla). February is looking promising so hopefully we will make up for the lost revenue soon.

I attended a meeting with our accountant, Marla Harding of The Harding Group, along with our Treasurer, Frank Gervasi, and Audit Committee member, Dorian Winterfeld. We reviewed our financial procedures and discussed how to streamline our accounting. It was a productive meeting.

I also attended a Prince George's County Council meeting held at The Greenbelt Theater. The highlight of the meeting was a presentation of the arts given by Rhonda Dallas, the Executive Director of the Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council. I had a chance to meet her afterwards and discuss grant opportunities that could benefit the cafe.

Music Coordinator Report

Despite having to cancel two weekend shows due to inclement weather, we had a great month musically. Kudos go out to Geff King for pulling together a last minute, but nonetheless outstanding band on the Sunday of Snowzilla. For all those that could make their way to the cafe that night they were treated to a wonderful show by Geff (Cold Hard Cash, Karen Collins and the Backroads Band), Mark Stutso (The Nighthawks), Ed Crowley (Fast Eddie and the Slowpokes), and Bob Millardi (Bad Influence Band). A wonderful time was had by all.

Mardis Gras has always been a special holiday for the New Deal and so we had three bands this month to acknowledge and honor the music and celebratory spirit of our big sister city, New Orleans: Little Red and the Renegades (Zydeco, New Orleans R&B, Rock & Roll, Funk, Blues and Cajun); Dixieland Express (Dixieland-style music that pays homage to the tradition and creativity found in performances of early twentieth century jazz); and The Wild Anacostias (Hyattsville's preeminent New Orleans/Blues style, funky, raucous, merry-making, multi-morphous Zydeco party band).

Some other highlights include: Fractal Cat (an ensemble that emphasizes classic songwriting, melodic vocals, and a multi-layered psychedelic rock sound); Annette Wasilik (Americana); The Nighthawks (blues, R&B, honky-tonk country, doo-wop, gospel and rockabilly); Gary Rue and Jeff Farias (original songs, solid vocals and song writing that features unique guitar & dobro styles, supported by cello, violin, upright bass, and percussion); The Window Panes (folk rock); and The Bachelor and the Bad Actress & The North American Martyrs (indie folk).

~Amethyst

Sunday January 24th, 2016

Bar Manager Report

New Year's Eve was a very slow night at the bar. In light of the extra expenses that we incur for this event (the band, publicity, sound person, staff, champagne, glasses, etc.) we ended up losing money. We need to consider ways of improving attendance in 2016.

Blue Moon is our newest bottled beer. It is a Belgian White brewed with Valencia orange peel and coriander.

Our Volunteer and Staff Appreciation Party was a big success and very well attended. Thank you to all that helped with the event, especially Tom LeaMond and Dorian Winterfeld, who bartended throughout the evening. Thanks also goes out to Michael Hartman who was our intrepid pizza runner.

Two bar stools were repaired this month at National Restaurant Equipment and Supply at a cost of \$12 each. The swivel chairs are a big improvement over our old ones, but it is clear that they will require regular maintenance.

Due to the recent snowstorm the bar was closed on Friday January 23rd and Saturday January 24th. Our monthly revenue will be taking a big hit this month.

Music Coordinator Report

Four exceptionally good groups made their debut this month: The Bad Influence Band (a four-piece blues & roots group with expert ensemble playing, strong melodies, and original songwriting); Four Star Combo (high-energy 1950's Rockabilly and Honky Tonk); Steel City Jug Slammers (Delta blues and old time jug music on traditional and homemade instruments); and The Vinyl Frontier (light rock).

Other highlights include: The Seth Kibel Quartet (high energy jazz and Klezmer; winner of 25 WAMMIES); Saskia and the Truly Unruly Band (an entertaining mix of originals and covers from the 1950's to the 1990's); The Reilly Goulait Band (acoustic folk rock); The Roustabouts (an original, upbeat take on the blues that wanders into the worlds of funk, R&B and rock with the fiddle as the x-factor); By & By (a mix of traditional and original bluegrass music with rich, tight vocal harmonies; winner of the 2012 DC Bluegrass Union Band Competition); The Loose Ends (roots rock with a mix of alt-country, Rockabilly and vintage rock & roll); Transatlantic Crossing (fiddle tunes from both sides of the Atlantic, including Irish and Scottish jigs and reels, as well as New England and French Canadian songs); Beggars Tomb (a five piece band focused on recreating classic renditions of the Grateful Dead); Susan Jones Jazz Quartet (a violin led jazz group, playing an exciting and eclectic mix of originals and jazz standards); and Funk Master General (a six piece jam band with horns playing funk in the New Orleans tradition).

~Amethyst