



New Deal Cafe Cooperative General Manager's Report September 2011

Overall Summary

Labor Day Weekend ushered in September, with the return of a little foamy beer, and 4 days of extra-large deposits because of the crowds. September 17th had Roosevelt Center filled with the Blues, for our 8th Annual Greenbelt Blues Festival! After much hard work from lots of volunteers, the event was held on a cloudy and sometimes misting day, and it came off beautifully in the plaza in front of the cafe!

Financial Summary

The balance of the 2010 tax payments, the first of the 2011 estimated tax payments, and the last payment on the Equity Loan were paid in September. With the completion of the 2010 taxes, I can begin to input the financial data into the existing QuickBooks file, instead of starting anew as I had originally planned. This is the next task on my to-do list. We are working on a cash flow projection for the rest of the year also.

I've attached the August 2011 Financial Report, showing a total net income of \$2353 for August. The café was closed for a Saturday and Sunday night at the end of August due to Hurricane Irene, so the figures are slightly skewed this month. August did see a higher average per night (by \$3) than July though, and a higher number for the busiest night of the month. We anticipate September and October will bring much higher deposits.

Avg Gross Income Per Night for August: \$320

Busiest Night: Friday, August 26 Hot Noodles \$652

Projects and Events

Blues Festival

Publicity for the Blues Festival took off in earnest, with more time being spent designing and delivering ads, and copying and putting up fliers. Articles were written, listservs were notified, the Big Café Poster was modified, and we saw lots of new faces in the Center that day! There ended up being a shortage of tech volunteers Saturday, but Frank Kayser came to the rescue in his wheelchair, 4 days after surgery, telling us all where the cables went, and helping the bands sound even better! Organizer John V did an amazing job given the shortage, of doing almost everything that needed doing that day, from 9am to 12pm! Dorian Winterfeld, Chris Logan and I were there the entire day also, with other volunteers pitching in to set up and break down the equipment outside. Karim's Blues Burger Special was a hit, as usual, and the bar had its best day of the year!

Liquor Board

Ray Stevens (as President on the liquor license) and I attended an informational meeting regarding the county's new entertainment permit. We had several questions, but were given the impression that this new permit was not meant for us. We applied that morning for an exemption from the permit and accompanying yearly fee, and hope to hear the results soon.

Entertainment

"Official" sound scheduling began at the end of August, and training will be taking place the first week of October with the first group of volunteers. We would like to have a cadre of volunteers who could set up the sound system if required, as we have entertainment almost EVERY night!

Bar Operations

A few foamy beer issues arose again this month, which were quickly resolved - probably because we were just selling it too fast over Labor Day! Mike Rall and Meg Haney have begun working on their own as volunteers behind the bar. Amethyst reports that more volunteers are definitely needed, as there have been some holes in the regular schedule recently.

Restaurant Contract and Facilities

Met with Karim and Maria periodically regarding the Blues Festival, café coordination, operations, and air conditioning temperature settings.

Unfortunately, Hurricane Irene left us with a small leak where the air conditioning line was inserted through the roof, right in the hallway into the back room. Our resident handyman Craig Tooley took a look at it, and our air conditioning contractor ended up patching it.

FONDCA

At their quarterly Board Meeting FONDCA discussed the success of the Blues Festival (Chris Logan was there in his hat all day giving out money!), the upcoming donation drive, the Reel & Meal screen/projector idea, and ideas for Greenbelt's 75th Anniversary in 2012. There are 2 shows currently planned in conjunction with the 75th Anniversary: a March/April group show and studio tour, and a November/December group photo show, with ideas thrown about for several other 1930's-era events also!

Leeann Irwin was welcomed as a new FONDCA board member.

A new art show was hung, showcasing Paul Downs in the back room, Elizabeth Barber on the front room walls, and Becky Williams in the display cases. The reception is set for October 9.

Reel & Meal Annual Boards Meeting

We had a very successful meeting with the Reel & Meal Board on September 13. NDC Board President Michael Hartman and I attended. Discussion on the proposed new screen centered around the remaining \$130 that was needed for the purchase. And then the September donation appeal six days later raised \$127! There was discussion about the desirability of a built-in projector, but the Reel & Meal board thinks the equipment they are currently using is sufficient for now. The Reel & Meal Board also met with Karim several months ago to reaffirm arrangements for the coming year and is satisfied with the success of the monthly event, which just celebrated its fourth anniversary in September!

Meetings

Board Meetings = 1

Board/Restaurant Manager Meetings = 1

Committee Meetings = 11+

Prince Georges County Liquor Board Informational Meeting = 1

FONDCA Meeting = 1

Reel/Meal Annual Meeting = 1

Upcoming Projects & Activities

Research and installation of a credit card machine is next on the priority list for major projects, as is QuickBooks implementation and a longer-term cash flow projection. The next special event will be the Greenbelt Pumpkin Festival on October 28.

Terri Rutledge

NDC Co-op General Manager