



New Deal Cafe Cooperative General Manager's Report June 2013

Overall Summary

Crazy Quilt preparations took over the last 3 weeks, along with lots of café/equipment maintenance tasks and meetings.

Financial Update

The last two months continue to show an increase in sales over last year. A quarterly update will be presented in the next General Manager's report.

Projects and Special Events

Crazy Quilt Music Festival

It was another totally beautiful day for Crazy Quilt this year – sun and smiles and a full day of amazing music! Director Joe Harris did an excellent job booking amazing bands and MC'ing the whole day, Frank Kayser helped it all sound perfect, Chris Logan was there dutifully day and night as the main stage crew, and Barbara Simon was making everyone happy writing FONDCA checks all day. Johanna Goderre did her usual headdress-wearing daytime Festival Bartender gig to everyone's delight, Matt Holland pulled the sound together beautifully for the U-Liners in the back room, and Bill Doley took over as an ace bartender in the evening with me! The musicians seemed particularly happy this year! We ended up with two very nice, large, well-written articles - one afterwards in the News Review (with pics!) covering the Festival on the entire back page and one prior in the Gazette publicizing the Festival and highlighting some of the bands.

It should be noted that KMK did not contribute towards Crazy Quilt this year, other than offering to feed the director and the sound man. Over the last several years (since FONDCA stopped paying) we have shared advertising and food costs for the Festivals.

ACLU Meeting

The ACLU held their annual Montgomery-Prince George's County meeting at the café this year, bringing very hot topics along with them. The topic for panel discussion this year was "Marijuana Legalization". Also, two days prior to the meeting the ACLU filed a lawsuit against the Obama administration challenging the constitutionality of the NSA gathering metadata. We had a full house and it appeared that everyone thought the meeting and the buffet came off splendidly.

Bar Operations

The new keg cart arrived and worked well in lugging those heavy, unwieldy kegs around. It is certainly much smaller to store in the front hall closet. However, it promptly broke within the first week. The company was fairly responsive and we should receive a replacement next week. They did say they had never heard of one breaking like ours before.

The Health Department inspector cited us for not having the CO2 cartridges secured behind the bar, so that will need to be done within the next 2 weeks.

FONDCA

The Green Man Group Show Art Reception was held on Sunday, June 2: this year's theme celebrated the 10th year since the Greenbelt Forest Preserve became protected woodland in Greenbelt! It was a love fest for the original Committee to Save the Greenbelt with both Paul Downs and Susan Barnett speaking about the history and Allison Smith and John providing perfect accompaniment. The reception also featured John Hayes and his flowing sculptures in the display case.

The Poetry Moment box holds a new poem for June which will stay up for 2 months: “#8” by Chris Farago.

Greenbelt Cooperative Alliance

The Greenbelt Cooperative Alliance announced the winner of the Logo Contest – café regular Ryan Willis - over Greenbelt Day Weekend, on Sunday June 2 in the Community Center gymnasium. We unveiled a new banner with the new logo, and Ryan accepted his \$250 Visa card from the Greenbelt Federal Credit Union!

Restaurant Contract and Facilities

Met with Karim several times regarding repairs to the facility and operations. The front air conditioner was worked on some more – the thermostat was replaced. We have been cited for repairs to the grease removal system, so I'll be researching and discussing that with Karim within the next month.

Pepco came and changed all of the lights in the café to more energy-efficient bulbs for no charge! It took 2 full days and the change is quite noticeable and positive. They even replaced the fluorescent bulbs (and the ballasts) and the old EXIT signs. They have been upgrading many of the businesses in Roosevelt Center as part of this community effort.

GM Action Items and other matters

Lease Renewal

The lease extension request was returned to us, completed and signed. We now have a lease

for the next 5 years, with an option to extend for an additional 5 years at the end of this period. The terms do include yearly rent increases of 3%.

Clean Currents

The quote for Clean Currents came in, and after researching other options for wind power, I have agreed to sign the café up for a two year contract with Clean Currents. Karim was agreeable to this change as well: he understood that it's a fixed rate, and that we have no guarantees that the rate will stay lower than what we might receive otherwise.

Energy Audit

Tom Moran provided estimates for some of the recommendations on his Energy Audit Report list, and we met to go over the details. He will be working on making some of the less expensive changes during this next week.

Special Entertainment Permit

The application for exemption from Prince George's County's Special Entertainment Permit has been received. The form is a bit more descriptive this year. The renewal is due to be received at the Liquor Board by August 1.

Recommendations on Management Agreement

To be discussed in executive session.

Meetings

Board Meetings = 2

Bar Manager Meeting = 1

Committee Meetings = 3

Co-op Alliance Presentation = 1

Energy Audit Meeting = 1

Upcoming Activities

The next special event will be the Labor Day Festival on August 30. The café will close early on July 4, as usual.

Terri Rutledge

NDC Cooperative General Manager

June 21, 2013