

New Deal Café Board of Directors Meeting (online)
Monday, April 27, 2020
MINUTES

Attendees

Board of Directors: Tom LeaMond (President), Mark Cheater (secretary), Michael Hartman, Dorian Winterfeld (treasurer), Diana McFadden

Audit Committee: Raven Eyes Cagle, Mike Stark, Naomi Littlefield

Staff: Amethyst Dwyer, Carla Monardes

DC Vegan: Michael and Leah Moon

FONDCA: Meg Haney, Peter May

Visitors: Connie Davis, Susan Barnett, Susan Harris, Lore Rosenthal, John Campanile, Arlene Kaminsky, Aileen Kroll, Donna Hoffmeister, Katy Gaughan, Barbara Glick, Nancy Melandry

Call to order – 6:34 pm

Approval of minutes of 3/23/20 board meeting

Dorian W. / Michael H – 2nd / approved (four ayes, Diana M. abstains)

Reports

DCVegan: Cafe food operation is open for contactless pickup and delivery, from 4 to 8pm Tues to Sunday. Continuing to offer the “fill your fridge” menu for larger quantities of food. Also working with Reel and Meal program to offer to-go ‘picnic lunches’, and the Old Greenbelt Theatre on ‘dinner and a movie’. Community service: putting a basket of free produce outside the Cafe daily, and working with a local church on a “Feed Greenbelt” program to provide free meals to those in need, funded by donations to the church. Also working with DishOut on a program to provide meals to medical staff and other frontline workers.

President: No report.

Treasurer: We have applied for several government and private grant and loan programs. To date we’ve received a small grant from the federal EIDL program, and a grant from a private foundation. We’ve also raised a few thousand dollars from both donations and gift card sales.

Secretary: Request for items for May newsletter; items due ASAP.

Audit Committee: No report.

Bar Manager: Bar remains closed because of government restrictions. Bar manager has been working on securing government grants and loans for the Cafe. All in-person music events for May have been cancelled. Putting together an email list of all regular Cafe performers so we can send a donation request to them, as well as to visual artists.

Old Business

Online Fundraising Auction: Volunteer Arlene Kaminsky led a discussion of online auction possibilities. She examined 13 potential services, and recommends 32auctions.com for ease of use and low cost. She volunteered to coordinate this effort, but needs at least seven other volunteers to help solicit donations, communicate with donors, track and ship items, do marketing and advertising, etc. She emphasized that in order to make money and justify the investment, we would need 'big-ticket' items that will attract interest and bids--not 'yard-sale' items of little to no value. The board decided to have a follow-up meeting in May to discuss.

New Business

Re-opening Scenarios: Naomi L. reviewed state and federal guidelines/metrics for businesses to re-open. There was a wide-ranging discussion of challenges (ensuring customer and employee safety; convincing bands and customers to come out; mastering the technology for broadcasting/live-streaming, etc.) as well as opportunities (more music live-streaming and broadcasting, charging cover fees, expanding the Cafe's outdoor seating, etc.). There was general agreement on the need for more information from government entities before detailed planning for re-opening can proceed. In the meantime, the board agreed to seek approval from city officials for expanding the outdoor seating/eating/drinking/music options in Roosevelt Center.

Annual Meeting: Tom L. noted that the board has decided to postpone the annual meeting, originally scheduled for May 3. There was discussion about various options for holding the meeting at some point in the next few months, including online or in the community center gym.

Next Meeting: Scheduled for May 25, postponed to May 27 because of Memorial Day holiday.

Adjourned at 8:52pm

Submitted by M. Cheater 5/25/20