

**New Deal Café Board of Directors Meeting (online)**  
**Monday, June 22, 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

Staff: Amethyst Dwyer, Carla Monardes

DC Vegan: Michael and Leah Moon, Stephen Clapp

FONDCA: Meg Haney

Visitors: Connie Davis, Bill Jones, Arlene Kaminsky, Donna Hoffmeister, Katy Gaughan, Susan Harris, Ed Crowley, Maria Silvia Miller

**Call to order** – 6:33 pm

Approval of minutes of 5/27/20 board meeting

*Dorian W. / Michael H – 2<sup>nd</sup> / approved unanimously*

Online Fundraising Auction: Volunteer Arlene Kaminsky, who is leading the effort, asked everyone for their help in soliciting donations (of at least \$25 in value, preferably more) and sponsors for the auction. A draft auction page has been set up on 32auctions.com and Arlene has created form letters for soliciting donors and logging donations, along with a list of businesses to solicit from. Tom L. asked for Cafe staff and volunteers to reach out to musicians and artists who use our space. Arlene asked staff/board to create ads for our Facebook pages, newsletter, and the Greenbelt News Review.

**Reports**

DCVegan: Plan to re-open for outdoor dining in the next few weeks, contingent on city approval of expansion of patio space to allow for proper spacing of tables. New menu in the works, with popular items from the Labor Day festival returning. Asked about Cafe's plans for music and events; Amethyst D. responded that county officials recently sent a letter specifically prohibiting bars and restaurants from offering live entertainment, and they didn't offer any guidance when that prohibition would be lifted. Tom L. pointed out that the county now allows use of indoor space at 50% of capacity; DCV responded that they will start with outdoor service and see how that goes from both a health and economic perspective before deciding on re-opening the inside. Stephen Clapp detailed the steps DCV will take to protect staff and customer safety, including stepped up cleaning and disinfecting protocols, requiring staff and patron face coverings, social distancing, hand sanitizer dispensers on each table, etc. DCV requested Cafe board help in figuring out ways to increase ventilation in the Cafe without stressing the HVAC system.

Treasurer: In the past month, the Cafe has received a loan of \$101,500 from the SBA's EIDL program, and a loan of \$15,625 from the Payroll Protection Program. We're working with our accounting firm to determine what portion of the money will need to be paid back and what steps we need to take to have the loans forgiven, if possible. For now, the plan is to avoid spending the

money until it's necessary. The Cafe has also raised a total of about \$2,700 from gift card purchases and donations through PayPal in the past month.

FONDCA: Outdoor music festivals and other arts events have been cancelled for the foreseeable future; FONDCA received an arts grant from the county.

## **New Business**

Audit Committee Vacancies: Mike Stark reported that audit committee member Naomi Littlefield has resigned, and member Raven Eyes Cagle is planning to step down in July. Mike S. and the board thanked Naomi and Raven Eyes for their service, and asked for volunteers to step forward to fill the two vacancies on the three-person committee.

Board Vacancy: Tom L. informed the board in writing on June 20 that he would be resigning the board effective 11:59pm on June 22, and noted that he had originally planned to step down in May when his term ended, but agreed to stay on temporarily when the Covid pandemic delayed the annual meeting. Board members thanked Tom for his years of service and leadership. Tom turned control of the meeting over to the Secretary, and Dorian W. made a motion to nominate Michael H. as President of the board effective at midnight. Diana M. seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously. Diana M. made a motion to nominate Aileen Kroll to fill the vacant seat on the board until the annual membership meeting can be held safely. Michael H seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously. (*On July 24, Aileen officially accepted the position and joined the board.*)

As of July 24, the board and officers of the New Deal Cafe are: Michael Hartman, President; Dorian Winterfeld, Treasurer; Mark Cheater, Secretary; Diana McFadden, Board Member; Aileen Kroll, Board Member.

## **Old Business**

Annual Meeting: The meeting, originally scheduled for May, has been on hold because of the Covid-related restrictions on public gatherings. Michael H. pointed out the logistical and financial challenges of trying to conduct the meeting virtually. He suggested that the Cafe follow the example set by Greenbelt Homes Inc. (which has also postponed its annual meeting): schedule the annual meeting for a date within six weeks after Prince George's county lifts the restriction on gatherings of 50 or more people. The board agreed to use this policy to guide its decision on setting a new meeting date.

Next Meeting: Originally scheduled for July 27, but Mark C. noted that date may pose a scheduling conflict for at least one board member. (*The meeting was subsequently re-scheduled for July 29 at 6:30pm*).

**Adjourned at 7:47pm**

*Submitted by M. Cheater 6/23/20; updated 7/29/20*