

New Deal Café Board of Directors Meeting (online)
Monday, Feb. 22, 2021

MINUTES

Attendees

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

Audit Committee: Carla Monardes, Jay Bellamy, Mike Stark

Staff (furloughed since March 2020): Amethyst Dwyer

FONDCA: Meg Haney, Peter May

Visitors: Connie Davis, Brandon Cole, Johanna Goderre, Tom Jones, Mary Waldron, Alan Zambreny, Tom LeaMond, Lore Rosenthal, Raven Eyes Cagle, Stuart Johnson, Kathy Bartolomeo, Susan Harris

Call to order – 6:33 pm

Approval of minutes of 1/25/21 board meeting

Dorian W. / Diana McF – 2nd / approved unanimously

Reports

President: The board has been busy trying to get grants and loans, talking to potential food contractors and overseeing renovations.

Treasurer: Dorian W Reviewed the Cafe's bank balance report: we have about \$227,000 in bank balances, and about \$219,000 in debts (government and member loans, etc.) for a bottom line of about \$8,000 in the black. We recently received a second Payroll Protection Program loan, and have six months to spend that. Michael H pointed out that Maryland recently passed a new Covid relief bill, and we will keep on eye on that and other opportunities to get additional funding to carry us through the pandemic.

Secretary: Mark C. reminded everyone to renew their Cafe memberships, or to join if they're not already members.

Audit Committee: Mike Stark said the committee has been assisting with the review and screening of food contractor applications.

Bar and Music Manager: We are still prohibited by PG County from hosting live entertainment.

FONDCA: Meg Haney said that Shaymar Higgs has volunteered to take the place of departing including art coordinator Chrissy Wilkin. Shaymar runs the Art for All space in Beltway Plaza Mall, is very active in the arts community, and has lots of ideas and is looking forward to working with FONDCA and the board. There will be a new art display in the Cafe this spring, and FONDCA will be applying for grants for fiscal 2022. Festival plans for 2021 are still up in the air due to pandemic-related restrictions.

Old Business

Beer and Wine sale: Mark C. reported that the weekly sale has been going well, raising around \$300 each week. He thanked Dorian W and Carla M for all their work on the sale.

Cafe renovations and improvements: Michael H provided a brief update on our efforts (led by volunteer Nancy Melandry) to improve the appearance and sound quality at the Cafe. He said that our floor contractor is making samples to match the existing floors (for spots that need to be patched), and once those are approved we can proceed. We are also getting bids from several contractors on replacing our existing ceiling tiles with newer, acoustic tiles, and replacing our existing lighting with better and more efficient lighting. We hope to start the renovation work in March. There was a brief discussion about getting member approval for the renovation work, and about whether FONDCA could raise the funds to pay for the floor renovation.

Search for New Food Vendor: Mark C gave a brief update on the status, noting the board has received more than 70 applications for the position, and has been spending much time sorting through these applications, identifying the strongest candidates, and arranging Cafe tours and meet-and-greets with the board. In response to questions about the criteria for selecting top candidates for the position, Michael H reiterated that the board is using both formal (from the recent membership survey) and informal input from members about what is important to them, and that overall we're looking for someone who will serve wholesome, varied, quality food at affordable prices, and will support our mission of serving as a welcoming community living room.

New Business

Pandemic anniversary: Michael H remarked that the first anniversary of the Cafe's pandemic-related closure is coming up (March 15) and noted that it was pretty miraculous we've been able to weather this crisis. He thanked Cafe members and patrons for their support, and assured everyone that the Cafe will survive.

Memberships: There was a brief discussion about the process used to recruit and renew Cafe memberships, and member Brandon Cole volunteered to help find ways to streamline and improve this process.

Next Meeting: scheduled for March 22.

Adjourned at 7:17pm

Submitted 3/15/21 by M. Cheater; approved 3/22/21