

New Deal Café Board of Directors Meeting (online)
Monday, Jan. 25, 2021

MINUTES

Attendees

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

Audit Committee: Carla Monardes, Jay Bellamy, Mike Stark

Staff (furloughed since March 2020): Amethyst Dwyer, Alicia Deligianis

FONDCA: Peter May

Visitors: Connie Davis, Doreen Christian, Frank Gervasi, Brandon Cole, Johanna Goderre, Tom Jones, Mary Waldron, Alan Zambreny, Tom LeaMond, Maria Silvia Miller, John Campanile, Lore Rosenthal, Lisa Meyer

Call to order – 6:33 pm

Approval of minutes of 1/4/21 board meeting

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

Reports

President: Will discuss progress on new vendor, renovations, etc., under the agenda items below.

Treasurer: Reviewed the Cafe's bank balance report: we have about \$213,000 in bank balances, and about \$204,000 in debts (government and member loans, etc.) for a bottom line of about \$9,000 in the black. Recent good news is that a state loan of \$50,000 will be forgiven. Reviewed 2020 Profit & Loss Report: despite the pandemic's disastrous impact on our revenue, we ended 2020 in the black, thanks to generous gifts from our supporters and government grants and loans.

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

Audit Committee: Mike Stark said the committee will produce an annual report for the next annual meeting.

Bar and Music Manager: We are still prohibited by PG County from hosting live entertainment. Checked with County officials again about hosting livestreaming events, and waiting to see if/when we will be permitted to do that.

FONDCA: Peter May said the board had met recently and discussed a number of items, including the departure of art coordinator Chrissy Wilkin.

Old Business

Search for New Food Vendor: Michael H. noted that we've been approached by several interested parties, with whom we've had informal meetings and provided Cafe tours. The board

is focusing on clarifying and prioritizing selection criteria, guided by the input of members and customers from our recent survey. He encouraged everyone to spread the word about our food vendor opportunity, and to pass along to the board information about any vendors who might be interested. In response to questions from the audience about who had applied for the job, he pointed out that some vendors had asked for confidentiality, and so the board couldn't release that information unless the vendors publicly identified themselves. In response to another question about the process and timeline for choosing a new vendor, he said the board is not moving in haste, because we want to get it right, and reiterated that the board will use feedback from the community to guide us. The bottom line is that 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.

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 we're working with our floor contractor to renovate the original terrazzo floors, and the first step is testing and approving samples to match the existing floors (for spots that need to be patched). We are also getting bids from several contractors on replacing our existing ceiling tiles with newer, acoustic tiles, and replacing our existing fluorescent lighting with better and more efficient lighting, along with some other minor electrical work. There was a discussion about possible ceiling tile choices and decorative elements to improve the look and character of the Cafe.

New Business

Beer and Wine Sale: Dorian W said that he was in the process of uploading an online menu for the public sale of our current beer and wine stock, at 50% off regular menu prices. Once the online ordering system is completed and tested, we'll be ready to go, hopefully in early February.

Arts Coordinator: Dorian W reminded everyone that our current arts coordinator, Chrissy Wilkin, is leaving in June. He thanked Chrissy for doing a great job for the past five years, and asked everyone for suggestions for a replacement, hopefully to come on board by April or May.

Next Meeting: scheduled for Feb. 22.

Adjourned at 7:56pm

Submitted 2/15/21 by M. Cheater; amended 2/17