

New Deal Café Board of Directors Meeting (online)
Monday, April 26, 2021

MINUTES

Attendees

Board of Directors: Michael Hartman (President), Mark Cheater (secretary), Diana McFadden, John Campanile

Audit Committee: Carla Monardes, Mike Stark, Jay Bellamy

FONDCA: Shaymar Higgs

Visitors: Connie Davis, Johanna Goderre, Lore Rosenthal, Susan Harris, Donna Hoffmeister, Kathy Bartolomeo, Bill Jones, Katy Gaughan, Jennifer Mullinax, Sandy Irving

Call to order – 6:34 pm

Approval of minutes of 3/22/21 board meeting

Mark C – move; Michael H.--2nd / approved unanimously

Reports

President: Aileen Kroll has recently left the board, and the remaining board members voted by email on April 13 to appoint John Campanile as a new board member, subject to an official vote by the board at a public meeting. *Motion (by Michael H.) that the board officially accept John Campanile as a new board member. Mark C--2nd. Approved unanimously.* Michael H formally welcomes John Campanile to the board. Michael also informed members that the Cafe was unfairly disqualified from the recent “DinePG” restaurant contest, despite being the top vote getter, because the organizers invoked an unwritten ‘rule’ that the restaurant must be open for business during the contest. Michael H protested to both contest organizers and PG County officials, to no avail. He thanked everyone who worked on the contest and voted for us.

Treasurer: In the treasurer’s absence, Michael H. reviewed the Cafe’s profit and loss report for the first quarter of 2021. We had income of about \$13,000 and expenses of about \$20,000, for a net loss of about \$7,000. He noted that such a small loss was pretty good, considering the Cafe was closed for the entire quarter.

Secretary: Mark C. reminded everyone to renew their Cafe memberships, or to join if they’re not already members. He also gave a brief update on the Cafe renovation work, noting that the floors are done and look great, and work on the ceiling, lighting, walls and back bathroom was proceeding.

Audit Committee: Mike S. said the committee will start work on a report covering the two years since the last annual meeting, to be presented at the upcoming annual meeting on June 6.

Bar/Music Manager: In the bar manager’s absence, Michael H. noted that we are continuing to sell beer and wine on a carryout basis, and have raised over \$2,000 from these sales.

FONDCA: The Cafe's new arts coordinator, Shaymar Higgs, gave an inspiring presentation on his vision for the art program. He is looking to leverage his extensive experience and contacts in the community to provide a space for the many 'creatives' in the community to be able to show their work--and also to help train young people to become creative professionals through an "Artrepreneurship" program. He sees the Cafe's arts program playing an important role in helping to connect the community, provide opportunities for youth and help the disadvantaged. The board welcomed his ideas and enthusiasm, thanked him for his presentation, and looks forward to working with him.

Old Business

Annual Meeting: Michael H said the board has decided on June 6 at 1pm as the time for the membership meeting. Member Johanna Goderre has volunteered to help run the election using an online platform that she has used before for other nonprofit groups. One of the advantages of this system is that it allows for ranked-choice voting. Johanna explained that each member who pre-registers for the meeting will receive a link to vote during the meeting, and that the voting will be secure and anonymous. The votes will be counted privately, independently and swiftly. It will be helpful to have candidate names several days ahead of the meeting to set up the system. Michael H and membership registrar Bill Jones emphasized that members' dues need to be up to date to run and/or vote in the election, and we need members' current email addresses. More detailed information about the meeting and election will be sent out to members before June 6.

Search for New Food Vendor: Michael H. said the board is working assiduously on signing a new food vendor. He explained that the process involves not only selecting top candidates, but negotiating a mutually agreeable contract--and we can't announce anything until the contract has been signed.

Next Meeting: scheduled for May 24.

Adjourned at 7:34pm

Submitted 5/22/21 by M. Cheater