

New Deal Café Board of Directors Meeting (online)
Monday, Sept 27, 2021

MINUTES

Attendees

Board of Directors: Michael Hartman (President), Mark Cheater (secretary), Dorian Winterfeld (Treasurer), Katy Gaughan, John Campanile.

Audit Committee: John Appiah-Duffell

Cafe Music Coordinator: Amethyst Dwyer

Greenbelt Co-op Supermarket/Cafe Food & Beverage Manager: Dan Gillotte, and staffer Carla Monardes

Visitors: Mary Grace Waldron, Alan Zambreny, Lore Rosenthal, Bill Jones, Deb Daniels, Terri Goodnow, Tom LeaMond, Susan Harris, Tina Van Pelt, Sean McCartney, Kathy Bartolomeo, Meg Haney

Call to order – 6:34 pm

Approval of minutes of 8/23/21 board meeting

Dorian W-- move; Katy G--2nd / approved unanimously

Reports

Cafe Manager: Dinner service started 9/24, and we served hundreds of people the next day during the Blues Festival. The festival went well, with food and beverages for everyone, and short wait times. We're going to continue our slow roll-out of dinner, and make tweaks/additions to the menu as needed and feasible.

President: Pleased with the Cafe's operation and Dan's openness to feedback; encourage anyone who has feedback to share it with the board and Dan via our web form at www.newdealcafe.com/about-us/cafe-feedback/ Thanks staff and organizers/volunteers at the Blues Festival.

Treasurer: Our bank balances currently total around \$121,000 and our debts are about \$195,000. We've paid off our federal PPP1 loan, and applied for forgiveness of our PPP 2 loan.

Secretary: Thanked Cafe, FONDCA and all volunteers for their work on the Blues Festival.

Audit Committee: John A-D reminded everyone that Audit still has a vacancy; anyone that's interested should send an email to audit@newdealcafe.com.

FONDCA: Meg H reports that the Blues Festival went well, and bands were very pleased with tips and merchandise sales. Looking forward to the Crazy Quilt festival on Oct. 9. Member Tom LeaMond asked everyone to support FONDCA by using Amazon Smile for online purchases, and designating FONDCA as the charity to receive donations from Amazon (a percentage of online sales). More info at smile.amazon.com

Katy G. provided an overview of the music lineup for the Crazy Quilt festival on Oct. 9 and asked for volunteers to help out. Michael H. reminded people that the idea behind Crazy Quilt is taking different musical genres and stitching them together like a quilt, and this symbolizes the diversity of the Cafe's musical offerings, and of Greenbelt in general.

There were questions from members about the schedule for art shows at the Cafe, and, given the Cafe's financial needs, whether FONDCA should consider taking a percentage commission from art sales at the Cafe.

Old Business

(none)

New Business

Plan for Resuming Indoor Events: Mark C. presented a summary of the board's plan (*see below*), emphasizing the need for cooperation from patrons, and the need for people to volunteer as Covid monitors. During the open discussion that followed, members suggested using EventBrite to create a reservation system for backroom seating, and charging people for reservations or entry. Other members were opposed to the idea of charging for music, and urged sticking with the tipping model. There were also questions about the logistics of limiting capacity. Board members thanked participants for their input, said they would give serious consideration to suggestions and concerns, and emphasized that, as the pandemic is fluid and unpredictable, we would all need to be flexible and patient. The board also emphasized that the plan would not work--and live music would not be able to continue--unless enough people sign up for shifts as volunteer Covid monitors.

Next Meeting: Oct. 25 at 6:30pm.

Adjourned at 8:07pm

Submitted 10/24/21 by M. Cheater; approved 10/25/21

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[Covid Plan outline attached below]

PLAN FOR BRINGING INDOOR EVENTS BACK TO NDC [9/27/21]

BACKGROUND

The pandemic has changed much about the way we live and recreate, and this includes the Cafe. The health and safety of our guests, staff and volunteers are the highest priority for the Cafe.

Cafe/Coop leadership has spent several weeks gathering information (including researching what other music venues are doing) and discussing the pros and cons of various options (from holding off on music entirely, to bringing back a full schedule of music w/ mask mandates).

Given the uncertainty around the course of the pandemic, we feel that a cautious, incremental approach is the best way to bring back music while protecting staff & patron health. But it will only work if members & patrons comply with our procedures and folks volunteer to help out.

Please note that our plans are subject to change based on mandates from city, county and state officials. Plans are also subject to change based on our evaluation of changes in COVID rates and vaccination rates.

PLAN

1. Replace germicidal UV bulbs in HVAC system (*done*)
2. Open back room to open for dinner and drinks (reduced capacity and no music) on 9/24. Cafe staff will monitor capacity and mask-wearing in back room during non-music nights,
3. Start indoor music program with weekly open mics beginning Oct. 12. Entry to back room on nights with live events limited to those with proof of vaccination or negative Covid test within 48 hours. Cafe volunteer coordinators will organize & schedule volunteers to check vaxx cards and monitor capacity limits in back room. [*see details below*]
4. Gradually bring in smaller bands (five or fewer vaccinated musicians) in subsequent weeks, as bands are available.

SAFETY PROTOCOLS

1. Follow and enforce all Covid-related government mandates, including mandatory mask-wearing indoors when not eating or drinking.
2. Restrict capacity of back room to 42; no bar seating.
3. On nights with music/indoor entertainment, volunteer “checkers” will ensure that all patrons entering (or already in) the back room from 6 pm to closing show proof of vaccination, or negative Covid test result from within the past 48 hours.
4. Post signs inside & outside the doors about our vaccination policy, and make reminder announcements during performance.
5. Space tables around the back room to maximize distance among tables, bar and stage.
6. Ensure that people in line at bar maintain appropriate distance from each other and from tables.

NEXT STEPS

1. Volunteer coordinators will recruit and schedule volunteers for shifts.
PLEASE VOLUNTEER!
2. Encourage bands to livestream performances and collect tips through Venmo, etc. online, as well as in-person tips.
3. Investigate reservation system options (EventBrite or web-based system to integrate with our web site)