

New Deal Café Board of Directors Dec. 2022 Meeting (online)
Monday, Dec. 5, 2022

MINUTES

Attendees

Board of Directors: Michael Hartman (President), Dorian Winterfeld (Treasurer), Mark Cheater (Secretary), Katy Gaughan [*John Campanile—excused absence*]

Audit Committee: Abby Crowley, Brett McCoy

Cafe Music Coordinator: Caitlin Gompf

Cafe Food & Beverage Manager: Dan Gillotte

FONDCA: Meg Haney

Visitors: Scott Stark, Susan Harris, Johanna Goderre, Tom Jones, Connie Davis, Donna Hoffmeister, Jay Bellamy, Bill Jones, Lore Rosenthal, Mike Rall, Sean McCartney

Call to order – 6:31pm

Approval of agenda: *approved unanimously*

Approval of minutes of 10/24/22 board meeting: *approved unanimously*

Moment of remembrance for Richard McMullin: Katy G. leads moment of silence for former board director and music director Richard McMullin, who died in November. Dorian W. shares remembrances of the many things that Richard did for the Cafe, including renting and designing the back room, starting music festivals in Roosevelt Center, etc., and says we owe him a big debt of gratitude.

Reports

President: Michael H. encourages everyone to come to the Cafe to eat and listen to music, and invite friends—and remind people that we can provide space for business and other group meetings.

Treasurer: Dorian W. shares NDC bank balances: We currently have about \$92,000 in the bank, and \$172,000 in debts. For the third quarter, we ended about \$1,800 in the black, because of a major donation we received.

Secretary: Mark C. thanks and congratulates everyone for the recent Washington CityPaper “Best Of” awards. He also thanks everyone who made a Giving Tuesday donation; and asks that folks

consider making end-of-year donations to the Cafe, including through our partner Fractured Atlas, which provides a way to make tax-deductible gifts to support our music program.

Audit Committee: Abby C. reports on the recent resignation of Jay Bellamy from the committee, and says they are looking for a new member. She reports that the leadership team had a good meeting with Fractured Atlas to clarify procedures and responsibilities, and reminds everyone that the only way to make a tax-deductible gift to support the Cafe's music program is through Fractured Atlas. She reminds the board of the need to prepare a 2023 budget, and asks to see monthly financial statements regarding our food and beverage operation.

Cafe Manager: Dan G. reports that he sent food and beverage financials for August and September to the board, and the operation is still in the red. In November, he took steps to cut labor costs, and believes that will put the operation on a path to profitability. December has started off well, with lots of events bringing people in. He is purchasing new tablets for the point-of-sale system, which hopefully make ordering and checking out more efficient. He reminds everyone that, unlike with previous vendors, the Cafe's contract with the Greenbelt Co-op has the Co-op covering most of the Cafe's expenses, including rent, utilities, etc. He discusses New Year's Eve plans, and notes that everyone who makes reservations will be expected to order dinner and drinks, as an alternative to a cover charge. There was a discussion about closing hours, staffing, and ways to increase bar sales.

Music Coordinator: Caitlin G. reiterates thanks for Giving Tuesday donations, and for the team effort in winning the CityPaper awards. She says she will work with Dan on clearly communicating our closing hours. She reports she is trying to add more daytime events, especially on weekends, to bring in more business. She is also taking steps to bring in a more diverse crowd. There was a discussion about programming for children and families.

FONDCA: Meg H. said FONDCA had a reception for the "Artists Gather" show on Sunday, which went well. That exhibit will come down Jan. 2, and then there will be a "Two Sisters" show for one month, so we can accommodate a special Black History Month exhibit in February (through March 6). Shaymar Higgs has put out a call for artists for that exhibit.

Old Business

[none]

New Business

Sound Volume Proposal: Scott Stark, the Cafe's lead sound engineer, presented a proposal for keeping sound levels in the Cafe within reasonable limits. Based on his decades of experience in

the business, feedback from other Cafe sound engineers and patrons, knowledge of federal sound-exposure standards, and concerns about both patron and staff health, he recommends the board adopt guidelines that sound levels be limited to about 90 decibels coming directly off the Cafe stage, and about 95 decibels in the back room as a whole (stage amps and PA system combined). He also proposes that the board approved a total of about \$450 to buy sound meters to measure sound levels in the back room. After a discussion, Dorian W. moved that the issue of adopting sound level guidelines be tabled until the next meeting (*passed by a vote of 3 to 1*). Then Dorian moved that the board approve spending up to \$450 for sound meters that Scott recommends (*passed unanimously*).

Next Mtg: January 23 at 6:30pm

The meeting adjourned at 8:37pm.

Submitted by Mark Cheater 12/8/2022; approved 1/23/23