

New Deal Café Board of Directors March 2023 Meeting (online)
Monday, March 27, 2023

MINUTES

Attendees

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

Audit Committee: Brett McCoy, Alan Parker

Cafe Music Coordinator: Caitlin Gompf

Cafe Food & Beverage Manager: Dan Gillotte

FONDCA: Meg Haney

Visitors: Susan Harris, Connie Davis, Jay Bellamy, Carla Monardes, Bill Jones, Lore Rosenthal, Joe Harris, Deb Daniel, Rebecca Holoher, Barry Holoher, Michael Rall, Kathy Bartolomeo, Jen Loss, Scott Stark, Peter May, Greg Meyer, Amy Drew, Stephanie Rizk, Matthew Victoria

Call to order – 6:31pm

Approval of agenda: *approved unanimously as amended*

Approval of minutes of 2/27/23 board meeting: *approved unanimously*

Reports

President: Michael H. says that if you love the Cafe, you must help keep it alive by buying food and beverages. We can't survive with just donations or grants. We have rent, utilities and other monthly bills to pay, and right now the Greenbelt Consumer Co-operative is bearing those costs. We're facing an existential crisis—so please eat, drink and be merry in our Cafe!

Treasurer: Dorian W. shares NDC bank balances: We currently have debts of about \$166,000, and deposits of about \$71,000. He notes that we have applied for and are exploring several grant opportunities. He also notes that sales are trending upward, and we finally seem to be putting the pandemic behind us.

Secretary: Mark C. reminds folks to start or renew their memberships soon, and to pick up their 2023 membership cards at Membership Appreciation Night, April 10.

Audit Committee: Brett M. reports that the committee has been assisting with searching and applying for grants.

Cafe Manager: Dan G. reports that the Cafe has had several weeks of great sales. With food specials and holidays, along with special music events organized by Caitlin G., and the new dessert case, sales are

picking up. We try to be responsive to feedback, e.g., we're bringing back soups and chili in the evenings. We're excited to offer the back room space for private parties, and Cafe members receive 50% off the hourly rate for such events. Due to improving sales, we're planning to extend Tuesday Open Mic hours until 9:30pm. There will probably be some menu adjustments in May, including new specials.

Music Coordinator: Caitlin G. reported on recent successful events, including St Patrick's Day, Renn Faire Friday, and the Black Masala show, and thanked folks for coming out. She previewed some shows scheduled for April, including the This Could Go Boom showcase and the 4/20 show. She announced the proposal for a documentary film about the Cafe's Open Mics (to be discussed under New Business) and thinks it's a great idea. There was a discussion about the Cafe's sound policy.

FONDCA: Meg H. says that the next scheduled art show will be for the Green Man Festival, and is titled "Remembrance: Our Ancestors and Our Roots." FONDCA is currently soliciting artists for this show. They are also doing planning work for the Jazz and Blues festivals this summer.

Old Business (none)

New Business

Annual Membership Meeting: Mark C. reminds folks that the annual meeting is scheduled for May 7 at 11am. There will be votes for two board seats, and all three audit committee slots. Those interested in running should contact social@newdealcafe.com, ideally two weeks before the meeting. We are also looking for volunteers to serve on the nominations committee.

Proposal for a Film Project: Caitlin G. introduces Stephanie Rizk and Matthew Victoria with WoodpointRoad Media. Matthew presents their idea for a documentary film celebrating and exploring the magic that happens at the New Deal Open Mic. He says our Open Mic is an incredible experience that he wants to explore as a filmmaker. He outlines the production schedule and logistics, which will involve renting the entire Cafe for three or four days. Stephanie outlines the benefits for the Cafe, including exposure, marketing support, and potential upgrades. She says they hope to do filming this summer, and release the final project in the fall/winter. They initially need the board's okay to use the Cafe's name in fundraising, and then will work with the board on a comprehensive contract. After a discussion, the board agrees in principle that this a good project, and its sense that Woodpointroad can move forward with fundraising, pending agreement on an MOU/letter of intent.

Next meeting: April 24 at 6:30pm

The board unanimously voted to adjourn the public session at 7:59pm, and to convene in executive session immediately after to discuss the management contract with GCC.

Submitted by Mark Cheater 04/19/2023; approved 4/24/23