

Commission Members: Alejandra Ibanez, Delores Holmes, Karla Thomas, Jane Grover, Staff: Kimberly Richardson, Shenicka Hohenkirk

Guest: Toby Sachs, Chair, Evanston Arts Council

Comments: Ms. Tate made remarks which I missed. Mr. Sutton spoke about the unfairness of help for landlords. Applications for assistance must come from the tenant and his tenant refuses to make the application. At the same time the city is requiring him to make certain improvements.

Equity in the Arts: Toby Sachs is the new chair of the Evanston Arts Council. He came before the Commission to report on how the Arts Council has approached the issue of Equity. At first the Board was not comfortable with discussion around equity so a committee was formed to move the issue forward. The Committee members took training and became focused on re-imagining the Cultural Fund Grant. They took into consideration a response to the pandemic and equity. As a result the eligibility was changed so that an organization did not need to be a 5013c. The number of questions on the application went from 7 to 3. 71% of the funding went to BIPOC organizations. The Council awarded \$30,000 to 21 organizations. 65% were new applicants and of those 60% had never applied before. Toby emphasized that Kimberly Richardson and Shenicka Hohenkirk has been very helpful.

Now the focus is on bring the Equity lens to the entire Board. In the meantime the committee members have bonded and want to continue to meet.

Boards and Commissions: The Commission members and staff discussed the question of training for all Boards and Commissions. Ideas varied. Kimberly Richardson said that some are not ready for training and suggested that Commission members observe and start with one.

Eileen from the YW asked if members could be required to take the training. The response was that that would have to come from the Council. Eileen says it is most logical for the training to be offered twice a year and to train all new members and also backtrack to train existing members.

Jane said the next step is to explore consultants.

Update on Language Access: Alejandra said she was very pleased to learn that District 65 is having conversations with a group called DuPage Federation on Human Services Reform. She would like to have the Federation come to the April Meeting of the Commission. It was agreed.

Question: Kimberly was asked about funding for Equity. She said the Commission has \$10,000 to spend and that there should be an item in the City Budget. Then she was asked about the position. She said the position is in the budget but it needs to be determined what that position is. They don't want it to be just the person people go to with Equity issues.

Election of Officers: This had to be deferred for lack of quorum but Jane said Alejandra and Karla would plan the agenda as they are the designated new officers. Karla said we will have new Council members in April so this is an opportunity for us to create a new relationship with the Council.

Staff Report: Kimberly reported on the update she gave to the City Council. She said the Council seems to be on board with what the E&E Commission wants to do with Boards and Commissions.