

**A.G.A.S.T.  
Annual General Meeting  
MINUTES**

**DATE & TIME**

Sunday, April 13, 2008  
11:30 AM

**LOCATION**

4<sup>th</sup> Floor common area  
94 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11215

**ATTENDEES**

Stephen Cass, President and Chair, Board of Directors  
Joanna Mayfield Marks, Secretary, Board of Directors  
Annie Leist, Recording Secretary, Steering Committee  
Josh Marks, Treasurer, Steering Committee  
Jessica Lipsky, Member Artist  
Zilpha Marks, Honorary Member

**PROCEEDINGS**

(Annie acted as recording secretary for the purposes of this meeting)

**I. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

This is the first Annual General Meeting of the Board, so there are no minutes to approve.

**II. STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT**

Josh reports \$5,000 left in our account, with all 2007 expenses paid. The 2007 tour, thanks largely to the Marks Family Foundation grant, saw two major long-term investments – the website redesign and the purchase of permanent banners for each tour site. The committee feels we are in a good financial position for 2008.

Dates for the 2008 Tour are **Saturday and Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, from 1-6 PM.** Ad sales should begin in May or June. The registration period will probably be from June through August.

Joanna read examples of feedback from various member artists about the 2007 tour. Most was positive, with the only suggestions centering around 1) getting better attendance to the smaller or less centrally located studios and 2) increasing a general feeling of community among the member artists.

As for bringing more people to smaller locations, we discussed directing press inquiries straight to a list of artists in those locations and their artists, as well as the ideal situation of hiring (or coercing) a PR person. Also, improving our year-round presence and general name recognition in the area will improve attendance overall to ALL locations. We will also consider adding transportation (petit cabs, not shuttles) to facilitate moving visitors to more remote tour locations.

Other general suggestions were discussed, including having an exhibition of member artists during or just before the tour. Josh reintroduced the idea of a container show, possibly to be held in the spring.

We also discussed ways to further the educational aspect of our mission. In recent months, Josh represented A.G.A.S.T. on a panel about area development. Also, in February a group of students from the UK toured several member artists' studios. We agreed that any member artist can contribute to this mission by formally stating their association with A.G.A.S.T. when they participate in educational or community events.

We decided to contact local schools to let them know about us, and invite them to include us in career programs or field trips, and to submit proposals for other activities that would bring the resources of our member artists to their students. We could even create a template on the website to automate the proposal submission process.

Brief digression – Joanna volunteered to look into our tax situation. Linda sent her the necessary forms – we think we need to file something basic by April 15<sup>th</sup>.

Finally we touched on plans for the more distant future, which will be discussed more thoroughly by the steering committee. We brainstormed increasing the time of the tour; having an opening and/or closing party; creating events featuring performance, video, and installation; (Southpaw could be a possible venue for these...) and other events throughout the year – festival? Container show?

As a postscript, Stephen suggested more active involvement in community events in addition to Atlantic Antic, such as street fairs and other existing local events. We could use them as platforms for promoting our artists, the tour, and the website year-round, not just immediately before the tour.

The next steering committee meeting was scheduled, and the Board passed a motion to officially thank the members of the 2007 committee for their hard work.

### III. STEERING COMMITTEE STIPENDS

A motion was passed to compensate steering committee members for their hard work with a financial stipend of \$500 (subject to adjustment as A.G.A.S.T. finances vary), to be paid after December 1<sup>st</sup> of the tour's calendar year OR after all other outstanding expenses are paid, whichever comes latest. The 2007 committee's stipend was set at \$500, the same as that of the 2006 committee. Checks will be disbursed to David Lantow, Annie Leist, Josh Marks, and Linda Tharp soon.

### IV. ELECTION OF BOARD

The Board of Directors was up for election. All officers were nominated, seconded, and elected by a majority of those present. The composition of the board remained the same for another year.

President and chair – Stephen Cass

Treasurer – Leah Stern

Secretary – Joanna Mayfield Marks

V. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

**ACTION ITEMS**

Write and distribute minutes (Annie)

File any 2007 tax forms (Joanna)

Write and distribute steering committee checks (Josh)

Check on schedule of upcoming community events

Brainstorm ideas for contacting schools and member artists about educational activities

Recruit additional volunteers to serve on committee or spearhead particular projects

**NEXT MEETING (STEERING COMMITTEE)**

Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008

10:00 AM

4<sup>th</sup> Floor common area

94 9<sup>th</sup> Street

Brooklyn, NYH 11215