

Rahr-West Art Museum
Board of Director Minutes

February 21, 2018

Present: Meg Bollinger, Carrie Estrella, Rhienna Gabriel, Candice Giesen, Mike Halla, Phil Hoff, Lori Kirby, Erin LaBonte, Adam Lovell, Jeanie Miller, Patrick Neuenfeldt, Mayor Nickels, Steve Prozenyak, Dolly Stokes, Greg Vadney, Amy Fricke-Weigel

Absent:

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Prozenyak at 12:05pm.

2. Public Input

None

3. Minutes – President

Motion was made by Miller, seconded by Fricke-Weigel and unanimously approved by the board to accept the January minutes as written.

4. Review of Financial Accounts

No questions

5. President Report-Steven Prozenyak

a. Education Committee

The education committee reviewed data to determine past programs which were successful to determine the appropriate direction to move with programming. Susan Mrotek will be teaching an Art of Movement and Dance series. Planning is underway for the 2018 summer education. There was discussion about contracting out to local artists for special workshops and involving more community members. The Cork & Canvas class series has been put on hold. It was determined that the Rahr-West does not have the required Class B liquor license needed to serve wine. There was discussion about partnering with local wineries/breweries or caterers. There was also discussion about possibly hosting the event off location. The Rahr-West is a partner in the Great Spirit Comedy Festival, taking place at the Masonic Lodge April 20 & 22. A portion of the event's proceeds will benefit Rahr-West Education. The next education committee meeting will take place on Thursday, March 8.

b. Membership/Marketing Committee

The Membership/Marketing committee discussed member numbers and the need to get reminders out to members who have lapsed. New memberships and renewals may now be done online, using a credit card. There was some discussion as to moving the renewal dates to either a different month or anniversary date. IN 2017 the RWAM partnered with the MPL for summer programming promotion on billboards. MPL is unable to commit this year, other options are being sought for partnerships. AJ, the RWAM intern, is working on organizing the museum's electronic photo collection, for ease of access.

c. Buildings & Grounds Committee

The Buildings & Grounds Committee met in January to discuss the landscape proposal from Kelly Services. The new kitchen flooring has been chosen and a painter will be coming in to evaluate the space.

d. Public Arts Committee

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Gabriel presented a funding initiative at the last Public Arts Committee meeting. The committee continues to research new ideas. The committee has reached out to three new community members for potential involvement with the committee. Meeting times have changed to the 1st Thursday of the month, with the next meeting taking place at the Rahr-West on Thursday, March 1 at 4pm.

e. Development Committee

The Development committee also discussed the landscape project. There is need for approved drawings before reaching out to potential sponsors. The solicitation schedule was also discussed. It may be helpful to consolidate mailings into one, in order to declutter sponsor mailboxes, as well as provide them with multiple sponsorship opportunities at once.

f. Potential New Board Members

Prozenyak asked the board if anyone had ideas/suggestions for potential board members to fill vacant seats which will be coming up due to term expirations. Estrella commented that she did have one individual indicate interest and will reach out to him. Board members should direct interested individuals to the City of Manitowoc's website to fill out the "[Citizen Committee Interest Form](#)" if they would like to be considered for candidacy. This form captures their contact info and experience. There was also discussion as to whether or not Board members should be members of the museum. Most thought that to promote diversity and encourage participation, membership should not be a requirement. As Jeannie Miller's board term will be ending and to keep a member of the Friends group on the RWAM Board for continuity throughout, two names were suggested; Mary Jo Stangel and Amy Gehrig.

6. Director Report-Greg Vadney

Senior Aide Laura Vohen suffered a major heart attack. Recovery is not looking to be positive. New carpet was installed in museum and was finished within estimated time frame. Broken window in entry was also replaced. There was discussion with Buildings and Grounds regarding the condensation issue in entry and looking into potential solutions. Proposed museum room rental rate increases went to vote at City Council on February 19 and were approved. New rates and implementation of security deposit are effective immediately.

7. Review & Possible Vote on Authorization of Public Events Committee to Administer Room Rental Waivers

There was discussion regarding requests for waiver of rental fees for nonprofit organizations. In order to keep continuity among the City's departments, it was proposed to grant the Special Events Committee the authority to judge rental waivers for the Rahr-WestArt Museum, which allows for allocation of room tax dollars to offset costs.

Motion to approve was made by Halla, seconded by Fricke-Weigel and unanimously approved.

8. Rahr-West Friends Committee Report

David Martin of Martin Pottery will be hosting the first 2018 Art of Conversation speaker series on Thursday, February 22. Shoppe at the Rahr was taken down for carpet installation and was put back up, it continues to be a work in progress. There was discussion about the items that are for sale. David Martin is now selling pottery on consignment and there are a couple local photographers

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interested in selling their work in the Shoppe. The group is in the process of planning their 2018 annual museum trip, contemplating either Cedarburg or Door County. The group is planning an “Art & Treasure” sale in conjunction with the County Art Exhibit in August. This would encourage people to come in to see the exhibit and hopefully purchase some art, as well as allow for some housecleaning of the 3rd floor.

9. Foundation Report-Vice President Mike Halla

Mike spoke about the success of the Janet Planet fundraiser. The show was sold out and attendees offered exceedingly great compliments. The food, décor and entertainment were all above par. Attendees also appreciated that there was no extra push to give at the event. Thanks were extended to Amy and Candice for their hard work and dedication to make the event successful. There was discussion about lack of Board participation in the event and that perhaps in the future, each board member should be assigned a number of tickets to sell.

10. Collection Report

The collections committee met on February 20. Two portraits of John West and his father Charles West were donated to the collection from the Manitowoc Company. There was discussion on purchase of a watercolor painting by Helen Hooper, but value needs to be determined before making deciding whether to purchase. New museum/collections software, Past Perfect 5 will be installed on museum computers in the near future. There is a 2018 NEH preservation grant which will be coming up. There is intention of applying once criteria are outlined. The committee held a brainstorming session on kinds of art the museum should focus on for accessions. It was questioned as to whether we should building current strengths or build on weaknesses to fill gaps. All board members are encouraged to reach out to the committee with ideas and/or thoughts on the topic. The committee also discussed creating an accessions policy which will aid in educating the Board. Adam will send out collections report via email.

11. Old Business

None

12. Convene in Closed Session

Motion to convene in closed session was made by Stokes, seconded Hoff, and unanimously approved at 1:05pm.

13. Adjourn

Submitted by Melissa Franz, Administrative Support Specialist