

Rahr-West Art Museum
Board of Director Minutes

November 14, 2018

Present: Diana Bolander, Amy Fricke-Weigel, Mike Halla, Amy Gehrig, Candice Giesen, Phil Hoff Steve Proszenyak, Dolly Stokes, Greg Vadney, HaLeigh Zipperer

Absent: Carrie Estrella, Lori Kirby, Erin LaBonte, Patrick Neuenfeldt, Jeremiah Novak

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Proszenyak at 12:00p.

2. Public Input

None

3. Minutes – President

Motion was made by Halla, seconded by Giesen, and unanimously approved by the board to accept the October minutes as written.

4. Review of Financial Accounts

No questions

5. President Report-Steven Proszenyak

a. Education Committee-Vadney

Committee did not meet. Vadney did mention that the Friends group chose three of the speakers for the Art of Conversation and Vadney has been working at the other three speakers for 2019. Once they are confirmed, the Art of Conversation series will go out with the 2019 Exhibition schedule. Vadney had also mentioned the Friday classes can provide complimentary alcoholic beverages to participants, as long as alcohol is not promoted as being provided.

b. Membership/Marketing Committee-Vadney

Did not meet.

c. Buildings & Grounds Committee-Vadney

Did not meet.

d. Public Arts Committee-Vadney

Committee is moving forward with weekly Art Forward articles. This is going well and there are openings for writing articles. Board members are invited to write articles if they wish. They discussed the Mirro site fence wrap and are working on site preparation. The digital layout is done and they are working with a graphic artist to complete the design work. They are hoping to complete the project by April 2019. The committee also discussed various options for sustainable funding. They are working through several potential options; however a Public Arts commission would need to be created before moving forward with any of these options. There is question regarding whether the options are viable at this time. The committee is still considering a projection arts project for the future and has several potential sites in mind.

- e. Development Committee-Vadney
Did not meet. Drawings are still in process of being rendered. Once completed the Development Committee will meet to discuss options to move forward.

6. Director Report- Vadney

Vadney discussed various upcoming events. The Holiday Parade Santa reception and Christmas in the Mansion opening will take place November 21. This is one of the biggest events of the year and Board members are encouraged to attend. The members holiday party will be held December 6 from 5-7p. The Ladies of Lake quilt exhibit will open December 9. The final Art of Conversation featuring Joanie Poole, master quilter, will be held on this date in conjunction with the quilt opening.

The City's 2019 budget is at committee and will be going to council on November 19.

There will be emergency training held for staff November 26. There will be an active shooter training drill, training on working with patrons who may have cognitive/mental health disorders, and general office and customer service training. Vadney will also be participating in a four hour multi-departmental city-wide emergency drill in early 2019. This will allow the museum to test and review its emergency disaster plan and communications. There were a few electrical blackouts at the museum during the first weekend of November, none of which lasted very long. This was due to high winds. The biggest issue with this is that the elevator stopped working and was unable to be reset that day. These events caused staff to realize that emergency lighting was either nonexistent or inadequate. Emergency lights were purchased and will be placed throughout the museum.

Vadney attended the Wisconsin Federation of Museums Annual meeting at the Kenosha Public Museum. Vadney had presented a session during the afternoon and also attended a presentation about creating donor networks. In January 2019, Vadney will become the President of the WFM, which is a two year term. This will require additional time commitments by Vadney and was discussed with Mayor Nickels, who has approved Vadney accepting the position.

Vadney will be attending a meeting with directors of various Wisconsin art museums and the Department of Tourism to discuss creating a Wisconsin Arts Museum Trail. This would be modeled after similar "trails" in other areas. This would be supported by Travel Wisconsin.

7. Rahr-West Friends Committee Report-Gehrig

The Friends committee is working on the Christmas in the Mansion Reception. There were 125 attendees last year and they are anticipating a similar number this year. The Shoppe Committee will be decorating the Shoppe at the Rahr for Christmas Friday. The group discussed the ornaments and fabrics provided to decorators for Christmas in the Mansion. Much of the décor is very old and some is broken/tattered. They would like the Board to consider approving funds to replace some of the items during after Christmas sales. Fricke commented that it would be beneficial to have a number for approval as well as input from decorators. Gehrig and Franz will put together a survey for decorators to help determine need. Survey results and requested funds will be brought to the Board for approval in December.

8. Foundation Report-Vice President Mike Halla

There was a review of financial accounts. The Foundation Board met in October and added handwritten, personalized notes to the annual appeal letters, which have since gone out. There was a reminder for the annual fundraiser, A Lovely Evening with Janet Planet, scheduled for February 8. Board Members are encouraged to attend or to lend a hand by volunteering at the event. Tickets for

the event go on sale December 1. Franz set up an online store where donations to the Foundation up to \$1000 may be made and tickets for Janet Planet may be purchased.

9. Collection Report—Bolander

Collections plan was handed out to the Board to review. This plan was developed by staff and committee, gives an overview of the current collection, sets criteria for new acquisitions, and proposes priorities for collections and conservation. The Board was asked to review the policy and it will be on the agenda for approval at the December Board meeting.

Six objects were discussed for acquisition, which were all from Lester Schwartz, a native of Manitowoc County while he was a student at the Art Institute of Chicago. All works are recommended for approval, with two of them being for the study collection and the remaining four being added to the permanent collection. There was a question as to what the differences between the two are. The permanent collection has legal requirements to care. The study collection has no legal requirements for care.

10. Old Business

None

11. Adjourn

A motion was made by Fricke-Weigel seconded by Giesen, and unanimously approved by the board to adjourn at 12:49p.

Submitted by Melissa Franz, Administrative Support Specialist