

Rahr-West Art Museum
Board of Director Minutes

March 20, 2019

Present: Diana Bolander, Carrie Estrella, Amy Fricke-Weigel, Amy Gehrig, Candice Giesen, Mike Halla, Erin LaBonte, Steve Prosenyak, Dolly Stokes, Greg Vadney, HaLeigh Zipperer

Absent: Phil Hoff, Lori Kirby, Patrick Neuenfeldt, Jeremiah Novak

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Prosenyak at 12:01pm.

2. Public Input

None

3. Minutes

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

4. Review of Financial Accounts

No questions.

5. President Report- Prosenyak

a. Education Committee

Did not meet

b. Membership/Marketing Committee

Did not meet

c. Buildings & Grounds Committee

Did not meet. Next meeting scheduled for March 25.

d. Public Arts Committee – LaBonte

Art Forward articles have been going out regularly. Art educators will be highlighted in the coming articles. A completed design for the fence wrap has been completed by S. Carpenter. The next step is for LaBonte and Vadney to meet with City officials to overcome some hurdles.

e. Development Committee – Prosenyak

Committee met and reviewed the completed three-dimensional designs. They are ready to begin preliminary fundraising discussions with community members. The designs were passed around for Board members to review.

f. Recommendations for New Board Members – Vadney

Halla's final Board term will be up in June. Board members were asked to reach out to individuals who may be interested in serving on the Rahr-West Board. No recommendations at this time.

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g. Planning for new Officers for June 2019 Board Meeting

New officers are due to be elected at the June Board meeting. President Proszenyak is unable to be at the June Board meeting, so there was discussion as to when the elections should be held. The Board decided that it would be best to vote on new officers at the May meeting.

6. Director Report-Vadney

The Manitowoc Public School District Youth Art opening was very well attended. There will be two Youth Art receptions in April. Board members are encouraged to attend. These openings reach audiences who may not normally visit the Rahr-West. The first speaker in the 2019 Art of Conversation series featuring Pat Prange will be held April 25.

A self-assessment matrix was distributed to Board members. About half were turned in. Some main points of the results of those that were turned in shows that the Board lacks in racial diversity, has good age diversity, and a very strong marketing background

The Member's bus trip to the Milwaukee Art Museum to see the Bouguereau exhibit is full and a waitlist has been started. Vadney and Eggert of the Friends Committee have been pursuing options for new lounge furniture. The current furniture is dated and they are looking for a more comfortable and modular seating for 8-10 people. The estimated cost would be under \$8000, coming out of the membership account. A formal request for approval of funds for lounge furniture will take place at the April meeting.

All staff training will be held Monday, March 25. Basic first aid training will be provided by the Fire Department and training on the updated GovPay credit card processing will be held.

Vadney attended American Alliance Museums Advocacy Day in Washington DC on February 26. Attendance helps in building relationships with Wisconsin Museums and Senator Baldwin's office. He also spoke with Megan Brown of the National Parks Service about 'Save America's Treasures' granting opportunities. With the Rahr Mansion being a historic home, it qualifies for some of this grant funding opportunities.

Vadney attended Association of Midwest of Museums listening session in Milwaukee March 11. AAM is planning on holding its 2020 conference in Milwaukee. He also discussed met with AMM Executive Director to discuss the Rahr-West's relationship with AMM.

Vadney attended the Governor's Conference on Tourism in Wisconsin Dells March 18 and 19. This conference helps put the Rahr-West in contact with the tourism sector and is good advertising for the museum. He also met with potential tourism marketing partners. There was discussion about our bus tour fees for the museum, which is \$10 per bus. This will be reviewed. He also met with the Director of the Wisconsin Arts Board and was invited to attend the Wisconsin Arts Board meeting.

7. Rahr-West Friends Committee Report – Gehrig

Pat Prange will present "Buttoning Down the Past" on April 25. The friends will be hosting a Tea on May 18, with Wendy Arnold-Leroux presenting "Aprons Through the Ages". A mailer card for the Tea will be going out the first week in April.

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Gehrig and T. Henrickson wrote an article highlighting the Shoppe for the newsletter. They are looking into coordinate some items in the Shoppe with the various exhibits throughout the year. It was noted that this time of year is slower for sales.

8. Foundation Report-Vice President Mike Halla

Foundation financial accounts were reviewed. A new accountant has been assigned and an audit is being conducted for Foundation accounts. Numbers from the Janet Planet fundraiser show that profit doubled from the 2018 fundraiser. The next quarterly Foundation Board meeting will be held in April.

9. Collection Report—Bolander

The Collections committee met March 19. The Rahr-West has been accepted for the Conservation Assessment program. An assessor will be coming in later this year to evaluate. Bolander is taking a course on reorganizing collections spaces. There were two watercolor pieces that are recommended for accession by the Collections committee. The first is by Ruth Rahr-Vinton, titled “Broken Window” and the second is by Bruno Ertz, titled “Hummingbird”.

A motion to accession both paintings was made by Halla, seconded by Fricke-Weigel, and approved unanimously by the Board.

10. Old Business

None.

11. Adjourn

A motion was made by Giesen, seconded by Gehrig, and unanimously approved by the board to adjourn at 12:37pm.

Submitted by Melissa Franz, Administrative Support Specialist