

**Rahr-West Art Museum**  
**Board of Director Minutes**

August 21, 2019

Present: Diana Bolander, Candice Giesen, Phil Hoff, Erin LaBonte, Jeremiah Novak, Steve Proszenyak, Dolly Stokes, Greg Vadney, Amy Fricke-Weigel, HaLeigh Zipperer

Absent: Carrie Estrella, Amy Gehrig, Lori Kirby

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Proszenyak at 12:02 pm

2. Public Input

None

3. Minutes – President

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

4. Review of Financial Accounts

No questions

5. President Report-Steven Proszenyak

a. Education Committee—Did not meet

b. Membership/Marketing Committee—Fricke-Weigel

Committee met August 12 and discussed the Stokes print for members. They decided that the prints would be offered only to those at the Advocate level and above. This is a small pool of members and the prints will be hand-delivered. The committee hopes to have a proof and approval of Dolly Stokes by beginning of October to finalize. This trial run will allow the committee to receive feedback from members, and ideally this will help to increase participation in higher level memberships. They also discussed how this print can be put to use for marketing. At the September meeting, the committee will be looking at the various membership levels/ offerings and at the November meeting, the committee will decide on the 2020 print. Stokes had suggested possibly having a donor event at her home for members at the top tiers.

c. Buildings & Grounds Committee—Did not meet

d. Public Arts Committee—Did not meet

e. Development Committee--Proszenyak

Met August 12 and discussed and strategized funding options for the landscape project of the front yard. They also discussed the potential sculpture garden and whether to acquire or commission pieces.

f. Sputnikfest

A reminder was given to Board members to turn in their Alien Drop tickets by week of August 26, also that there are still many volunteer slots available. Everyone is encouraged to help out.

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6. Director Report-Greg Vadney

The Rahr-West Members & Manitowoc County Artists opening will be held August 25. This is one of the best attended openings through the year. Board members are encouraged to attend. Art Slam will be taking place September 21 & 22. There will be an exhibit and opening at the Rahr-West on September 27 at 6pm. Board members are encouraged to participate in this as well.

The 2020 budget is due August 23. The total operations budget is about \$311,000 and is in line with last year. Vadney will meet with Mayor Nickels and the Finance Director September 10.

Wisconsin Art Educators will be holding their annual meeting in Manitowoc in 2019. They were interested in holding an opening at the RWAM. Instead, it will be held at the Hamilton Wood Type Museum. This is partially due to non-waiver of fees. This event would have brought 300+ people to the museum. Instead, Vadney will offer evening tours to those in the group who are interested. The Chamber was also interested in holding a Lunch & Learn here in August, but decided to move to the Library, due to the non-waiver of fees. The Rahr-West is losing on people not coming to the museum due to the non-waiver of fees. Hoff suggested that guidelines need to be developed for those seeking waiver. A policy needs to be developed and approved by the city attorney. It was suggested that a small committee be put together to review these requests. Facility rentals need to generate revenue for the museum. Further discussion was tabled and will be brought back as an agenda item.

Security guard Tyler Alexander accepted a new position elsewhere. This was not unexpected, but he will be kept on as a “floater” to work as needed/ available. A job posting will be listed for this position. This will not affect the budget.

There are two prospective Board members, Tricia Zimmerman & Larry Shimon. Zimmerman is very familiar with the museum and on the Foundation Board. Shimon was a previous Board member and has been involved with the museum for many years. Recommendations have been sent to the Mayor and nominations will take place next month.

The Collections Assessment for Preservation program will take place September 12 & 13. There will be a site visit from two assessors, one preservation architect and one conservator. Board members are encouraged to attend a wrap up session on September 13 at 3:30pm. The assessors will discuss their findings and make preliminary recommendations. A final report will be available about six weeks after their visit. This will be reviewed by staff and the collections committee. It will also be discussed at the Board meeting.

7. Rahr-West Friends Committee Report—Vadney

The Friends did not meet in August. However, they did have their annual bus trip to the Paine in Oshkosh. There were very many positive comments.

8. Foundation Report—Fricke-Weigel

The Foundation Board met July 23 and discussed the annual appeal. They will once again write personal notes on the letters at the October meeting. The Janet Planet event will take place February 7, 2020. The theme will be Janet Planet Goes Broadway. Bank First will once again be a title sponsor.

The financial information was not available at this meeting, but there was discussion regarding the volatility of the market. There is a plan in place in case of extreme concern/worry over invested funds.

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9. Collection Report—Bolander

Committed did not meet. However there was a handout with two potential acquisitions, both by Lester Schwartz. One is a painting recommended to be accessioned to the permanent collection and the other is a pen and ink drawing for the study collection. A motion was made by Fricke-Weigel, seconded by LaBonte, and unanimously approved to accept both pieces for acquisition.

10. Old Business

None

11. Adjourn

A motion was made by Novak, seconded by LaBonte, and unanimously approved by the board to adjourn at 12:44 pm.

Submitted by Melissa Franz, Administrative Support Specialist