

Rahr-West Art Museum
Board of Director Minutes
May 20, 2020

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

Absent: Carrie Estrella, Jeremiah Novak, Phil Hoff,

1. Call to Order

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

2. Public Input

None

3. Minutes – President

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

4. Review of Financial Accounts

No questions

5. President Report-Steven Proszenyak

a. Education Committee-Vadney

Committee met May 8 and discussed summer programming. No June programming will be held and no changes have been made to other summer programming as of yet. Educators have been furloughed and unable to attend the meeting. Vadney would like to discuss digital learning options with educators. However, a plan to monetize digital learning would have to be created. Permission was recently granted by the Mayor to begin brining educators back.

Exhibit schedules have been shifted to accommodate museum closure. Bolander created educational programming resources for the website and Franz has created an online collection of the museum's works.

b. Membership/Marketing Committee

Did not meet. Meeting scheduled for May 21 at 1:00pm.

c. Buildings & Grounds Committee

Did not meet.

d. Public Arts Committee

Committee met May 19. They reviewed designs for the mural project on the former Milwaukee PC Building. The Room Tax committee met May 12 and decided to put a freeze on funds dedicated to the project. However, LaBonte discussed the project with Community Development, and they have funds available in their budget to dedicate to the project. They also discussed the Art Forward schedule and badger sculpture by the lakefront.

e. Development Committee

Did not meet.

f. Strategic Plan Discussion

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An updated version of the plan was not available. Fricke-Weigel questioned whether committees were going to revise specific portions and bring them back to the Board for approval. Vadney stated that that is the intention.

g. Steps for Reopening-Vadney

Vadney discussed the steps for reopening the museum. The museum will reopen with normal operating hours beginning June 2. No classes, rentals or events will be held in June. Buildings and Grounds is installing plexi glass partitions at the front desk. Social distancing guidelines will be posted and artwork will be set up in a way to allow for more social distancing. There will be signage reminding people of social distancing, as well as directing patrons in a clockwise manor throughout the museum and mansion. Vadney discussed maximum occupancy rules with Chief Blaser. Employees and patrons are strongly encouraged to wear masks. Disposable masks will be available to those who wish to utilize them. Paper brochures, magazines, etc. will be removed. The basement will be closed. Currently not sure how to handle registering guests. Would like the ability to contact trace people if need be.

h. Election of Board Officers

The following Board Officers were elected and unanimously approved:

Board President: Amy Fricke-Weigel

Board Vice President: Dolly Stokes

Board Secretary: Lori Kirby

6. Director Report-Greg Vadney

Vadney thanked Proszenyak for his service as Board President. Reminder that nominations are needed for empty Board seats.

Summer exhibitions are planned for opening on June 7. The Really Big Prints event for 2020 has been cancelled, as has the exhibition. County Artists and Tablesettings are on track to go on as scheduled at this time. No exhibit openings will be taking place this summer, but would like to hold virtual opening of summer exhibits.

June classes, although very limited, have been cancelled. Not sure about remaining summer classes, but potential to hold some outdoors to increase social distancing. June facility rentals have been cancelled, not yet sure about July.

There was discussion about Sputnikfest and whether it is feasible to hold the event. Various options were discussed. Fricke-Weigel made a motion to postpone the event until 2021, seconded by Stokes and unanimously approved.

To this point, due to closure, the museum has lost about \$8500 in revenue from donations, sales, classes, and rentals as compared to previous years. The Room Tax Commission issued a spending freeze. However, the 2020 allocation has already been received. There has been a hiring freeze, although a security guard hired in March will still be on boarded in the coming days. There is a freeze on all non-essential spending. There are limited CARES funds and small business funding, as the museum is a city run facility. Vandey applied for grant funding through National Endowment of the Arts CARES Act Funds through the Wisconsin Arts Board. No notice has yet be received.

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There was discussion about the 2021 budget, which will be difficult due to a decrease in shared revenue from the state and considerably lower room tax funds.

7. Rahr-West Friends Committee Report-Gehrig
Did not meet.

8. Foundation Report-Fricke-Weigel
April meeting has been rescheduled to June 9. There was a review of the financial accounts. Board positions will be discussed at meeting.

9. Collection Report-Bolander
Committee met May 18. They declined a potential acquisition. They discussed the strategic plan as related to collections. The virtual exhibit opening went well, with estimated 40-50 attendees.

10. Old Business
None

11. Adjourn
A motion was made by Stokes, seconded by Gehrig, and unanimously approved by the board to adjourn at 1:04pm.

Submitted by Melissa Franz, Administrative Support Specialist