

Rahr-West Art Museum
Board of Director Minutes
July 15, 2020

Present: Diana Bolander, Amy Fricke-Weigel, Amy Gehrig, Candice Giesen, Courtney Hansen, Phil Hoff, Erin LaBonte, Larry Shimon, Dolly Stokes, Greg Vadney, HaLeigh Zipperer

Absent: Lori Kirby, Carrie Estrella, Patricia Zimmerman

1. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order by President Fricke-Weigel at 12:00pm.
2. Public Input
None
3. Minutes – President
Motion was made by Gehrig, seconded by Zipperer, and unanimously approved by the board to accept the June minutes, with a spelling correction on page two.
4. Review of Financial Accounts
No questions
5. President Report- Fricke-Weigel
 - a. Education Committee—Did not meet. Next meeting scheduled for July 24 at 11am.
 - b. Membership/Marketing Committee—
Met July 13. Stokes prints for the Advocate members and above are printed. Letters have been drafted and a press release will be sent, with prints being presented to members soon. In September 2020, committee plans to select print for 2021. Letter for lapsed memberships has been drafted and will be mailed. They also discussed hold a “Roll Up Your Sleeves Luncheon” with Greg. Committee will be working with Development Committee on 2021 sponsorships. Next meeting scheduled for September.
 - c. Buildings & Grounds Committee—Did not meet.
 - d. Public Arts Committee—Bolander
Met July 14.They reviewed 2020 public arts projects and voted to support community development funds to go to the Lakeside mural and transformer wrap projects. They discussed potential 2021 projects and Art Forward articles. Vadney stated that July 25 & 26 is “Chalk the State” spearheaded by MOWA, of which the Rahr West is a partner. All are encouraged to participate. The Rahr-West will be putting together some chalk bags, plans, and create spaces to participate.
 - e. Development Committee—Did not meet. Will meet in August.
 - f. Sputnikfest 2021—Fricke-Weigel
Fricke-Weigel would like the board to think about Sputnikfest 2021. Potentially rebranding and/or restructuring to develop more partnership opportunities. Would also like to develop a more structured committee and appoint a chairperson.

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6. Rahr-West Friends Committee Report—Gehrig
Friends did meet. There was not much discussion, as there are no events taking place now or in the foreseeable near future.

7. Collection Report—Bolander
Collection Committee met July 14. They discussed the potential acquisition of artwork by Judith Roth, whose estate is being handled by the Kohler Foundation. Kohler invited the Rahr-West to choose several works for our collection. The committee selected and approved four pieces for acquisition, four of which are exhibit ready.
 1. “Linda” oil crayon on paper
 2. “Untitled” pastel on paper
 3. “Untitled” oil on board
 4. “The Apple” oil on canvas

A motion was made by Hoff, seconded by Zipperer and unanimously approved to accept the four works for the collection.

Bolander is currently working on updating the museum’s disaster plan. The committee also discussed diversifying the collection by actively selecting works by artists of color.

8. Foundation Report—Fricke-Weigel
Did not meet. Next meeting in October.

9. Director’s Report
June and July attendance is significantly down from previous years. The Member and County Artist’s show is scheduled to go on as planned, but there will likely not be a reception, as no public events are scheduled. The InCourage closing event for “What They Were Wearing” scheduled for August 6 will be held virtually.

All art classes have been cancelled due to logistical issues. There has been very low enrollment and it does not make sense financially to hold classes. Fall classes are TBD. Will be working with teachers to convert educational materials to take home, online, or both. The Cares grant submitted to the Arts Board was approved. This can help to offset the cost of digitizing/reformatting classes.

Vadney and Bolander are working on programming for an Art Bridges grant. They are currently planning a five program initiative during August/September to coincide with the Art Bridges installations. All programs put one or both installations to use; reaching audiences that may not be the traditional focus of the museum. A decision whether funding will be awarded should be received by the end of July. Additionally, Art Bridges has a COVID relief grant, which the Rahr-West will apply for.

Budget planning for 2021 is behind schedule. Vadney is awaiting instruction, but the likely target will be the end of August.

Museum maintenance staff has been promoted, so he has been unable to focus on the museum. Due to the current hiring freeze, his position will not be filled at this time. Permission was granted to hire seasonal employees until the end of 2020 to assist with light building maintenance/cleaning. This would be a 15-20 hour weekly position.

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The draft exhibit schedule for 2021/2022 was distributed and reviewed. The schedule is not yet finalized.

10. Old Business

None

11. Adjourn

A motion was made by Gehrig, seconded by Shimon, and unanimously approved by the board to adjourn at 12:49pm.

Submitted by Melissa Franz, Administrative Support Specialist