

Rahr-West Art Museum
Board of Director Minutes

September 16, 2020

Present: Diana Bolander, Carrie Estrella, Amy Fricke-Weigel, Courtney Hansen, Phil Hoff, Erin LaBonte, Jeanie Miller, Larry Shimon, Dolly Stokes, Greg Vadney, Patricia Zimmerman, HaLeigh Zipperer

Absent: Amy Gehrig, Candice Giesen, Lori Kirby

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Fricke-Weigel at 12:01pm.

2. Public Input

None

3. Minutes – President

Motion was made by Zimmerman, seconded by Shimon, and unanimously approved by the board to accept the August minutes as written.

4. Review of Financial Accounts

No questions

5. President Report- Fricke-Weigel

a. Sputnikfest 2021—Fricke-Weigel

Sputnikfest 2021 will go through the Development Committee with Board involvement for oversight.

b. Board Members

There are two openings on the Board. Lori Kirby will be stepping down from the Board and the other opening is due to a term vacancy. Any interested individuals or suggestions for new members should contact Fricke-Weigel.

c. Tablesetting Reception

All Board Members are encouraged to sign up for a time slot to attend the Tablesetting Reception on October 1.

d. Education Committee—Vadney

Meeting was held September 4. They discussed Art Bridges programming. The art kits have been distributed to the MPSD elementary schools this week. The Jazz compilation with the Manitowoc Symphony Orchestra has been completed. The Art Bridges Stigma reduction programming will be held this Friday, September 18. Bolander and Vadney recorded videos for the two pieces that were on loan from Art Bridges. A live stream event hosted by the Felix Gonzalez Torres Foundation will be held Thursday, September 17. They also discussed an upcoming community art project that will be funded through a grant from Art Bridges.

The art kits created by educators have been well received. They discussed having take home kits for adults, as most programming has been targeted to youth. Pricing for kits and/or potential sponsorship will need to be determined. This will need to be aligned with the Marketing, Education, and Development committees. Halloween in the Mansion has been officially cancelled for 2020. Strategic planning goals were also discussed.

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LaBonte mentioned they discussed how to incorporate classes in an online format and how to charge for these classes.

- e. Membership/Marketing Committee—Fricke-Weigel
Membership has rebounded. There were many renewals due to the July mailing. There has also been an uptick of people increasing their membership levels to Supporter and above to receive the annual art prints. The committee discussed the prints for 2021 and 2022 and decided upon a Bruno Ertz for 2021 and Johann Berthelsen for 2022. This is contingent upon approval of the family members/estates of each artists. The committee with further discuss this at the October meeting.

The committee is working with Development on creating sponsorship opportunities with focus on four areas: Collections, Special Events, Education, and Exhibits. The next meeting will be held in November.

- f. Buildings & Grounds Committee
Did not meet
- g. Public Arts Committee—Bolander
The committee met and discussed current public art projects. They are also planning and prioritizing for 2021. They would like to establish education for the existing public arts. The Lakeside Foods mural celebrating diversity is currently in progress.
- h. Development Committee—Fricke-Weigel
Did not meet. Next meeting will be September 21. They plan to discuss the elevator and landscaping projects and collaboration with the Marketing Committee.
- i. Strategic Plan Update—Fricke-Weigel
Committee Chairs were asked to work with their committee to get their strategic planning goals done by October for a vote at the October 21 Board meeting.

- 6. Rahr-West Friends Committee Report—Miller
The Friends committee met September 9. They will be holding a “Reception in a Box” for the Members & Tablesetters reception. To go boxes will be distributed as attendees leave the event.

They have been discussing possibly ordering custom face masks for members to be distributed at the Christmas in the Mansion reception. They are looking at maybe having them printed with “Late for a Date” or an embroidered mask with the Rahr-West logo. Fricke-Weigel reminded that Board approval is needed prior to purchase.

The Friends have done some cleaning/reorganizing on the 3rd floor to get ready for Christmas in the Mansion décor selection. They will be coming in early November to get the trees ready for decorators.

- 7. Collection Report—Bolander
Collections memo was sent today with the Director’s report. The committee met September 15. They were updated on the data loggers. Can now begin purchasing supplies for collection conservation,

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which will be reimbursed through the NEH grant that was approved. They also discussed several potential acquisitions.

Sterling Rathsack is a Manitowoc native and is interested in donating some of his artwork to the museum. He shared 17 or 19 potential pieces and the committee narrowed it to three paintings.

1. Self Portrait, Oil on Canvas
2. Three Generations, Oil on Canvas
3. Don't Cry, Oil on Canvas

Karen Fitzgerald is a Wisconsin Native who lives in New York City. This potential acquisition would be a gift of the Kohler Foundation.

1. This Place, Oil on Canvas

A motion to accept the three paintings by Sterling Rathsack recommended to the Board by the Collections Committee was made by Shimon, seconded by Stokes, and unanimously approved by the Board.

A motion to accept the Karen Fitzgerald painting recommended to the Board by the Collections Committee was made by Estrella, seconded by Zimmerman and unanimously approved.

8. Foundation Report—Fricke-Weigel
Next meeting will take place in October. They will discuss the February Gala. The financials are doing well.
9. Director's Report—Vadney
Reviewed upcoming exhibitions. The Manitowoc Cabinet exhibit has been postponed until 2021. The 2021 budget has been submitted. Next step is a meeting with Mayor Nickels, the Finance Director, Vadney and Fricke-Weigel.

There was an update about the Art Bridges grants. Bridge Ahead Funds were approved in two phases. These grants provided for some staff time, A/V updates, stanchions and signage, and the community art projects.

The State Community Development Fund awarded the City of Manitowoc with \$575,000 to be used for the elevator project connecting the museum/house. Vadney is in the beginning stages of planning with various firms on this project.

An offer was made for the custodian position that was vacant. The hope is to have them start the week of September 21. This position will be able to work 20 hours per week.

The draft emergency plan for the Rahr-West was sent out with the Board packet. Bolander has been drafting/updating this plan over the summer. This plan is mainly for catastrophic events.

Hoff proposed an amendment, that the call tree should be an addendum, rather than a piece of the plan, to allow for easy updates and not requiring Board approval should there be a change in staffing.

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A motion to approve the plan with the suggested amendment was made by LaBonte, seconded by Shimon and unanimously approved by the Board.

10. Old Business

None

11. Adjourn

A motion was made by Zimmerman, seconded by Estrella and unanimously approved by the board to adjourn at 1:00pm.

Submitted by Melissa Franz, Administrative Support Specialist