

Rahr-West Art Museum
Board of Director Minutes
November 18, 2020

Present: Diana Bolander, Carrie Estrella, Amy Fricke-Weigel, Amy Gehrig, Candice Giesen, Katherine Halla, Courtney Hansen, Phil Hoff, Erin LaBonte, Greg Vadney, Patricia Zimmerman, HaLeigh Zipperer

Absent: Larry Shimon, R.J. Skrepenski, Dolly Stokes

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Fricke-Weigel at 12:02pm.

2. Public Input

None

3. Minutes – President

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

4. Review of Financial Accounts

No questions

5. President Report- Fricke-Weigel

a. Education Committee—Vadney/LaBonte

Committee met and discussed the Portrait of Manitowoc Project and the associated Art Bridges programming grant, as well as the take home art kits. There was also discussion about the need for a full-time educator and potential funding sources for this position. Hiring a full-time educator is needed to meet strategic planning initiatives and to expand the education plan. The RWAMCF will discuss potential funding opportunities for this position at the January meeting.

b. Membership/Marketing Committee

Did not meet

c. Buildings & Grounds Committee

Did not meet

d. Public Arts Committee—LaBonte

Committee did meet. Discussion with facilitators of the Really Big Prints event about potentially wheat pasting some of the Really Big Prints within the community from the RBP event scheduled to take place this summer. LaBonte attended the Finance meeting to advocate for Public Arts funding from the 2021 Room Tax funds. Bolander surveyed members of the community about public arts projects and she and LaBonte will be putting together a plan to bring before the commission. Vadney mentioned that the members of the Room Tax Commission recognize the value of public arts and the importance of funding, but they cannot commit due to the uncertainty of Room Tax funds that will be received. A proposal was made by Alder Novak to move \$15,000 from streetscapes to public arts. The discussion was voted on and ended in a 5/5 tie. It has been tabled for further review in the future.

e. Development Committee—Fricke-Weigel

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Committee met November 16 and discussed capital campaigns for the elevator project, front yard landscape project, and potential future renovations. They also had discussion of Sputnikfest 2021, which will be run through the Development Committee, as it is a fundraising event. A grant proposal was submitted to the West Foundation for the front yard landscaping.

- f. Strategic Plan Update—Vadney
Vadney shared strategic plan initiatives, specifically for education long range vision. The strategic plan initiatives were sent to the Board for review and vote at the December Board meeting. There was also discussion regarding the front yard project, specifically sculptures.
- g. Board Member Vacancies—Fricke-Weigel
Katherine Halla and R.J. Skrepenski were appointed to the Board at the November 16, 2020 Council meeting.
- h. Vice President Election—Fricke-Weigel
This position was not voted on, as the position vacated by Lori Kirby upon resignation is the Secretary position, not Vice President. An election for the Secretary position will be held at the December Board meeting.
- i. Board Members for 2021—Fricke-Weigel
Fricke-Weigel will send an email to all Board members regarding Board vacancies for 2021 and the process for potential members to apply for these vacancies.

- 6. Rahr-West Friends Committee Report—Gehrig
A motion to approve the revised Friends Policy Manual was made by Halla, seconded by Zimmerman, and unanimously approved by the Board.

The Friends met in November. A committee was formed and they will be meeting to put together a budget to bring to the Board for approval. The masks featuring “Late for a Date” have been received and there was discussion as to how they should be distributed. Vadney mentioned that staff was planning on sending the masks, a Holiday greeting, and portrait of Manitowoc Project information to all members via postal mail. There was discussion about packet pick-up versus mailing the packets.

Halla mentioned to the Board that all members are invited and encouraged to attend all events the Friends host.

- 7. Collection Report—Bolander
Committee met November 17 and discussed potential acquisitions and deaccessioning several rugs. The committee recommended accessioning two works to the Board: “View from Maritime Bay” by Ron Stokes and “Red Bluffs” by Carol Bell.

A motion to accession both works was made by Hoff, seconded Gehrig and unanimously approved by the Board.

The committee recommended to deaccession eight rugs that are currently in collections. It is believed that the rugs were originally meant to be used as furnishings. These rugs no longer hold intrinsic value for exhibit or collection and do not meet the stated purpose of collections. Proceeds

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from sale of deaccessioned items would be put towards collections care or new acquisitions in accordance with the Collections Policy and the Collections Development Plan.

A motion to deaccession the eight rugs (Object IDs: 77.12, 78.46.2, 78.46.3, 78.46.4, 78.46.5, 78.46.6, 82.197.19, 83.19) was made by LaBonte, seconded by Zimmerman and unanimously approved by the Board.

NEH collections grant supplies have been ordered and an intern is in the process of being hired as part of this grant.

8. Foundation Report—Fricke-Weigel
Financial accounts were reviewed. They are still in the process of discussing the annual gala. No definite decisions regarding the event have been made.
9. Director's Report—Vadney
The museum is closed indefinitely. No return date has been determined, as there has not been a downward trend in COVID cases in the community.

Christmas in the Mansion has been cancelled, as has the members holiday reception. Maintenance and staff will be putting trees in windows and decorating the exterior of the building to keep the spirit of Christmas. Trees will be on timers so they will be lit up in the evening. A fiberglass Santa will be on the mansion porch, along with a box to place letters to Santa. All designers have been notified and all are willing to decorate their designated rooms in 2021.

Several live stream events are coming up. Participation numbers in these events have been good. Vadney plans on hosting some live events, as well.

The 2021 Executive budget was approved by Council.

Draft designs for the elevator project have been sent to the Board for review. Board members are encouraged to provide feedback on the designs.

10. Old Business
None

11. Adjourn
A motion was made by Giesen, seconded by Gehrig, and unanimously approved by the board to adjourn at 1:12pm.

Submitted by Melissa Franz, Administrative Support Specialist