

Rahr-West Art Museum
Board of Director Minutes
December 16, 2020

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

Absent: Carrie Estrella, Courtney Hansen, R.J. Skrepenski, Dolly Stokes,

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 Zimmerman, seconded by Gehrig, and unanimously approved by the board to accept the November minutes as written.

4. Review of Financial Accounts

No questions

5. President Report- Fricke-Weigel

a. Education Committee

Did not meet. Scheduled for December 18.

b. Membership/Marketing Committee

Did not meet.

c. Buildings & Grounds Committee

Did not meet.

d. Public Arts Committee—Bolander

Committee met and discussed 2021 project plans and next steps. They developed a funding plan. Projects for 2021 include painting one utility box in each of the 10 municipal districts, wheat pasting several of the Really Big Prints as an outdoor gallery, and developing a Public Arts app to market the public arts to residents and tourists.

e. Development Committee

Did not meet. Scheduled for December 21.

f. Secretary Election—Fricke-Weigel

HaLeigh Zipperer offered to fill the secretary position vacated by Kirby.

A motion to nominate Zipperer as Secretary was made by Zimmerman, seconded by Halla and unanimously approved by the board.

g. Board Members for 2021—Fricke-Weigel

Fricke-Weigel reminded all that there will be several openings on the Board in 2021 due to term limitations. Any interested candidates should apply through the online form on the City of Manitowoc website.

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6. Rahr-West Friends Committee Report—Halla

A proposed annual budget for the Friends Committee was sent with the Board packet. This proposed budget of \$10,000 annually encompasses various events, receptions, and member events throughout the year.

A motion to approve a budget of \$10,000 annually for the Friends was made by Zimmerman, seconded by LaBonte, and unanimously approved by the Board.

Halla expressed thanks to Fricke-Weigel for attending their December Friends meeting. Board members are always invited and encouraged to attend these meetings to learn more about what the Friends group does for the museum.

A new President for the committee was elected. Past President, Jeannie Miller, provided a review of the various projects and events undertaken by the committee during her tenure.

The Friends are interested in curating an exhibit of art eggs during the Easter season, if the exhibition schedule allows.

All Board members have a holiday gift package available for pick up at the museum. These packages were put together by the Friends group and distributed on December 14 at a drive-up event.

Halla also expressed thanks to the public arts committee for doing a great job with the Art Forward articles.

7. Collection Report—Bolander

Committee met December 15. Bolander shared a memo with a potential acquisition by Ruth Rahr-Vinton. The committee recommends acquisition of the piece “Untitled”, an oil painting featuring the Manitowoc pier and lighthouse, to the Board.

A motion to accession “Untitled” by Ruth Rahr-Vinton was made by LaBonte, seconded by Zimmerman, and unanimously approved the Board.

A lot of collections projects are going on during museum closure. An insulation expert came to offer opinions on insulating in the collections area to help with the fluctuations in humidity. This opened good conversations with Buildings and Grounds about insulating the mansion and potential HVAC work.

8. Foundation Report—Fricke-Weigel

The Annual Appeal went out in November. A full report will be brought to the Board at the January meeting.

The 2021 Gala has been cancelled and rescheduled for 2022. All sponsors and the band Steem are on board for this schedule change.

The financial accounts were reviewed.

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9. Director's Report—Vadney

Vadney reported an auctioneer came to measure and photograph the rugs that the Board voted to deaccession at the November meeting. Estimates and a timeline for auction are to come.

The elevator project is still in the planning stages and the grant is being worked out with the state. Vadney talked Jan Smith, former RWAM Director and private museum consultant about future needs of the museum after the elevator install. Once the elevator is complete, Smith could be hired to review and identify needs for renovation and accessibility of the space. She would also be a good facilitator for discussions. A funding source would need to be determined for her services.

The front office renovation is moving forward. Staff has met with ACE and Lakeshore Business Interiors to finalize designs. Currently trying to decide upon laminate and color options, then a start date can be determined.

The exterior sign has experienced a few more delays. Down payment has been made and can now move forward.

Vadney and Fricke-Weigel presented the landscape project to the West Foundation Board for potential funding. Should hear back by year's end regarding their decision.

The museum is still closed, but there has been a local and regional decline in COVID cases. This is encouraging and staff is hoping for reopening January 15, which is contingent on community spread.

The Tablestting exhibit is in the process of being uninstalled. May have new custodian shampoo carpets in galleries, as this is a prime opportunity to do so during closure without affecting the artwork.

Vadney and Bolander are working with the Friends on the art egg exhibition during Easter. The Chagall exhibit will still be taking place. There will be no MPSD or Roncalli Youth Art. At this time the high school conferences are still planning on participating. Very positive feedback has been offered regarding the lights outside the mansion and in the windows.

10. Old Business

None

11. Adjourn

A motion was made by Giesen, seconded by Gehrig, and unanimously approved by the Board to adjourn at 12:40pm.

Submitted by Melissa Franz, Administrative Support Specialist