

Rahr-West Art Museum
Board of Director Minutes

February 17, 2021

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

Absent: R.J. Skrepenski

1. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order by President Fricke-Weigel at 12:04pm.
2. Public Input
None
3. Minutes – President
Motion was made by Zimmerman, seconded by Giesen, and unanimously approved by the board to accept the January minutes as written.
4. Review of Financial Accounts
No questions
5. President Report- Fricke-Weigel
 - a. Membership/Marketing—Fricke-Weigel
Did not meet. Will meet in March. The Bruno Ertz print has been approved to be distributed to members at the Advocate Level and above.
 - b. Development—Fricke-Weigel
Met February 15. Sommerville came in and discussed the elevator plans and answered questions They hope to have bids out in May. They discussed the plan to bring on a consultant for renovations. A Sputnikfest timeline was put together and an organizer for the mural run/walk has been determined.
 - c. Education
Did not meet. Will meet March 5.
 - d. Public Arts—Bolander
Discussed 2021 programs and funding. Had discussions with MPU regarding painting utility boxes. Phase 1 of a grant for education and marketing app has been accepted by Wisconsin Arts Board has been accepted for the second round of applications. They also discussed Really Big Prints.
 - e. Strategic Plan Implementation—Fricke-Weigel
A motion to accept the Strategic Plan as presented was made by LaBonte, seconded by Giesen and unanimously approved by the Board for implementation.
 - f. Vadney’s Evaluation Process—Fricke-Weigel
The Director’s annual evaluation process was discussed. Fricke will email the evaluation document to all who have email and distribute to those that do not. Completed evaluations must be sent to the City of Manitowoc Human Resources department no later than March 5.

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Hope to have the Board go into closed session to discuss at the March meeting, if possible, but no later than the April Board meeting.

- g. Board Members for 2021—Fricke-Weigel
Board candidates for expiring terms are still needed. Interested individuals should apply through the Mayor's office. A new Board President will also need to be appointed. Any interested candidates are asked to contact Fricke-Weigel.

- 6. Rahr-West Friends Committee Report—Gehrig
Friends met February 10. Vadney also attended meeting and gave a report. The Shoppe at the Rahr is set up for Easter and the "For the Love of Eggs: Curated by the Friends of the Rahr West". They discussed possible Art of Conversation speakers. An abbreviated schedule of events has been determined, consisting of receptions for the County Artists Exhibit, Tablesettings, The Ladies of the Lake Quilt Exhibit, and Christmas in the Mansion. They also discussed the Frida Kahlo bus trip, which may need to be cancelled due to uncertainty.

- 7. Collection Report—Bolander
Collections Committee met February 16. Bolander reminded Board Members that Liesl Testwuide of the Kohler Foundation will be doing a livestream event on February 24 at 5:00pm. There was a report of the temperature and humidity. Dataloggers were installed in May 2020 and there is much more data available than in previous years. They have shown the Ruth West gallery climate to be volatile due to extreme fluctuations in humidity, as the current system is unable to do incremental changes. Vadney and Bolander will be reaching out to an HVAC expert specializing in museums to learn what can be done about these fluctuations.

The committee also discussed deaccessioning several objects, as they do not align with the scope of collections according to the Collections Policy. The Collections Committee recommends deaccessioning the following items to the Board:

- 57.41 (also documented as 78.33)—Bamboo Easel, 1860-1870
- 86.4—Mission Style Easel,
- 61.77.3—Table with Oval Marble Top
- 75.24.4—Cup and Saucer (broken)
- 78.27—Pair of Vases, ceramic, 1940
- 78.34—Mirror, East Lake Style
- 78.40.1—Victorian Style Table, 1860
- 78.42—Piano, Melodian, Prescott Brothers, 1848
- 80.77—Victorian Desk Chair, 1898
- 80.82—Reed Organ and Bench, Vocalion Organ Co, 1900

It was noted that the proposed items have no documentation of importance to the museum's collection.

A motion to deaccession the recommended items was made by Gehrig, seconded by Zimmerman, and unanimously approved by the Board.

- 8. Foundation Report—Fricke-Weigel
Foundation Board met in January. The annual appeal giving was up in comparison to last year. The financial accounts were review. The annual gala scheduled for 2021 has been put on hold until 2022.

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9. Director's Report—Vadney

The museum reopened to the public on January 29. Only the Lounge Gallery and mansion are open. The Friends are setting up "For the Love of Eggs: Curated by the Friends of the Rahr-West" in the east wing of the John West Gallery. Museum patronage has been slow, not unusual for February. The Portrait of Manitowoc Project will be installed for opening February 28 and the egg exhibit will open the beginning of March. Typically, March is the best attended month due to Youth Art, but will likely be slower due to cancellation.

There will be a livestream event from Liesl Testwuide, Art Preservation Manager at the Kohler Foundation, on February 24 at 5pm.

Vadney is continuing to monitor COVID numbers for opening to rentals, classes and in person meetings.

Elevator design revisions continue to be made to ensure the bid follows all grant requirements and contract for bids. The Somerville engineering team is finalizing the mechanical work. Hope to get bidding out by May, which will determine timeline of the project. Hope to have the elevator completed by January 2022.

Front office renovations are underway by ACE. Should be completed by March 5, with furniture installation taking place the following week.

The museum is short-staffed due to two separations. Working with HR to fill these vacancies. Vadney has been working Saturdays and Bolander has been working Sundays to offset this shortage.

Vadney will be participating in AAM Museums Advocacy Day, which will be taking place virtually on February 23. The registration fee was covered by Wisconsin Federation of Museums.

10. Old Business

Fricke issued a reminder that Board candidates are needed. Any interested people should apply the through the Mayor's office.

11. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn at 12:43 was made by Hoff, seconded by Zipperer and unanimously approved.

Submitted by Melissa Franz, Administrative Support Specialist