

Rahr-West Art Museum
Board of Director Minutes
September 19, 2018

Present: Diana Bolander, Mike Halla, Amy Gehrig, Candice Giesen, Phil Hoff, Erin LaBonte, Jeremiah Novak, Steve Prosenyak, Dolly Stokes, Greg Vadney

Absent: Carrie Estrella, Lori Kirby, Amy Fricke-Weigel, Patrick Neuenfeldt, HaLeigh Zipperer

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Prosenyak at 12:02p.

2. Public Input

None

3. Minutes – President

Motion was made by Halla, seconded by Amy Gehrig, and unanimously approved by the board to accept the August minutes as written.

4. Review of Financial Accounts

No questions.

5. President Report-Steven Prosenyak

a. Education Committee-Vadney

Met September 18 and discussed Halloween in the Mansion, which will take place October 24 from 5:30-7:00p. This free event has been very successful in the past. There will be various activities/crafts, including pumpkin painting. Board members are asked to provide two bags of candy each for the event (no chocolate). Candy may be brought to October Board meeting or drop them off at the front desk. Volunteers are also needed for this event. LaBonte suggested that this may be a good time to encourage membership and class registration.

The committee also discussed the 2019 Art of Conversation and exhibition schedule and aligning the two, so that they will better connect. It was mentioned that with the Navy exhibit in the summer of 2019, there may be opportunity to connect with more speakers on various subjects with this exhibit.

b. Membership/Marketing Committee-Vadney

Met September 19 and discussed options for the 2019 marketing budget. They discussed dedicating funds to a few things and will explore potentially advertising in the Milwaukee market. They also discussed marketing to more family oriented avenues and what those possibilities may be. They also discussed website rejuvenation, aiming to be complete by April 2019. This would incorporate better images, for which a professional photographer would be hired to take. Membership was also discussed and the best way to change to anniversary date renewal. There was a question as to if it was possible to move longtime members back to their old anniversary date.

c. Buildings & Grounds Committee

Did not meet, next meeting will be held September 24.

- d. Public Arts Committee-LaBonte
Will be meeting this evening, September 19, 2018.
 - e. Development Committee
Did not meet
6. Director Report-Greg Vadney
Chermak family will be holding a private dedication of the Alice Chermak memorial water feature in the Courtyard on September 20. Board members are invited. Art Slam artwork came September 16, with no issues. The transition between exhibits went smoothly, with the Art Slam work being hung quickly. The public opening for Art Slam will take place September 21 at 6pm. Tablesettings will open October 7, with a private designer and members preview on October 4. Water's Edge Artists opening will take place October 5.
- Vadney has met with the Finance Director and Mayor to work on the 2019 operations budget. There are not many changes from 2018. Education salaries will be put into operations budget. In the past they were taken from the Education account. The change in the Foundation donation payout has been reflected in the budget.
- The Jewish Museum has the contract to loan the Chagall exhibit for 2019. The \$11,000 for the exhibit loan is accounted for in the budget. A museum in Myrtle Beach is also interested in loaning the exhibit for 2019/2020. Halla had questioned brining in a famous work and having a related program, similar to that when we had a Renior on loan, which was well received. Vadney had stated this is something that we would definitely like to do.
- Sputnikfest went well. The weather was great and the crowd size seemed comparable to that of 2018. The revenues for food, merchandise and the Alien Drop were down. We are awaiting getting all expenses in before determining final numbers. LaBonte questioned how attendees are counted. There is no formal procedure, attendee numbers are eyeballed. A wrap up meeting will be held September 25. Input is welcome from all.
- One security guard has been out on medical leave for several weeks. He is cleared to come back to work in October. The opening had left ample opportunity to get the newly hired security guard acclimated.
- Buildings and grounds projects have been moving along. Besides the Chermak memorial dedication on September 20. The cabinets for the classroom are ready. We are working with maintenance staff to find a time to get them installed. The kitchen is all painted and the flooring is installed. There are a couple of issues with the flooring that need to be addressed. There is some minor electrical work that needs to be done before cabinets can be installed.
7. Rahr-West Friends Committee Report-Amy Gehrig
Gift Shoppe financials were discussed. On behalf of the Friends Committee, Gehrig requested that the Shoppe at the Rahr be provided an annual budget of \$5000. This would allow for some autonomy within the Shoppe. The Shoppe has seen a large amount of growth over the past year and the group would like to keep the inventory current and relevant. Acute Angle does provide some consignment for the Shoppe also, which sells well. Vadney mentioned that \$5000 seemed a bit high, but that \$2000 might be a more reasonable number. Adding \$5000 worth of inventory might take up too much space in storage and there is no additional storage or retail space available. Gehrig had said that to keep the Shoppe current and coordinate merchandise with exhibits, funds are necessary. The

Friends will keep a detailed inventory. Halla had stated that if more funds beyond the \$2000 are needed, the budget can be revisited. Novak had suggested limiting the value of inventory, rather than an allocated amount. Vadney thought this may take some autonomy away from the shop. Additionally, some vendors require a minimum order, which makes ordering difficult.

A motion was made by Halla and seconded by Stokes and unanimously approved for an annual \$2000 budget for the Shoppe at the Rahr effective immediately.

The Friends group is also working on speakers for the 2019 Art of Conversation.

8. Foundation Report-Vice President Mike Halla
Financial accounts were reviewed. Halla had mentioned that Foundation Board members will add personal notes to mailings for annual appeal at the October meeting. Hall will include an article in the upcoming newsletter regarding the annual appeal. Giesen also indicated that planning has begun for the annual gala, set to take place February 8, 2018.
9. Collection Report—Diana Bolander
The Collections Committee met September 18. They discussed a collection development plan, which they plan to have completed by the end of the year. They also discussed an assemblage acquisition. They will gather some more information regarding this before bringing it to the Board for approval.
10. Old Business
Hoff inquired about an update as far as serving wine at events. There has been no forward movement with this.
11. Adjourn
A motion was made by Giesen, seconded by Gehrig, and unanimously approved by the board to adjourn at 12:58 pm.

Submitted by Melissa Franz, Administrative Support Specialist