

Rahr-West Art Museum
Board of Director Minutes

February 20, 2019

Present: Diana Bolander, Amy Fricke-Weigel, Amy Gehrig, Mike Halla, Erin LaBonte, Patrick Neuenfeldt, Steve Proszenyak, Dolly Stokes, Greg Vadney, HaLeigh Zipperer

Absent: Carrie Estrella, Phil Hoff, Candice Giesen, Lori Kirby, Jeremiah Novak,

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Proszenyak at 12:02pm.

2. Public Input

None

3. Minutes

Motion was made by Halla, seconded by Fricke-Weigel, and unanimously approved by the board to accept the January minutes as written.

4. Review of Financial Accounts

No questions

5. President Report-Steven Proszenyak

a. Education Committee-Vadney

Did not meet. Melissa has been working with educators on developing summer schedule and putting together summer activity guide. It was identified in 2018 that the Discovery Room was in need updates and Diana and Heather have been taking steps towards this project, as well as working on making the galleries and exhibits more interactive.

b. Membership/Marketing Committee

Did not meet.

c. Buildings & Grounds Committee

Did not meet.

d. Public Arts Committee-LaBonte

The committee has been working with Stephanie Carpenter on designing the fence wrap for the Mirro site. Carpenter attended the meeting and brought in draft design images for the wrap. There is concern that the existing fence is not able to bear the weight of the wrap, specifically with wind resistance. Vadney is working with the city on finding a solution to this issue, which likely includes replacing the existing stretch of fence where the wrap would be placed, which would require additional funding. Using Carpenter's images to fundraise for these additional costs may be helpful. The placement of the fence wrap was questioned, and it was indicated that it would only be on Washington Street. The wrap is estimated to be in place about three years. LaBonte has been working on gathering logos for the wrap.

Estrella has been keeping the momentum going with the Art Forward columns in the HTR. The March Art Forward columns will focus on highlighting art educators in the area. Next meeting will be March 6.

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- e. Development Committee-Prosenyak
Committee met February 23. They reviewed the design for the front yard project. Requested changes have been made to the design. Discussions continued from January meeting.

6. Director Report-Vadney

Vadney discussed Board recruitment. Potential board members need to be identified in a timely manner to align with the Mayor's office. He also handed out a Board matrix from prior years. A self-assessment was also distributed. Board members were asked to complete the assessment in order to update the matrix and identify where the Board is currently and to help identify what the strengths/weakness are to find potential members to fill the roles where gaps may exist.

Each year the Friends plan a bus trip, which is very popular and is one of the largest perks of membership. The Rahr-West will be running a second bus trip for members planned by Diana and Melissa. The trip will take place on April 30 and will go the Milwaukee Art Museum to tour the Bouguereau exhibition that will be there. This was originally discussed as being a docent trip to aide in training, but it was decided to invite all members. This is also good for member recruitment.

Melissa has developed a remapping of the website to streamline web traffic. This will consolidate pages and eliminate redundancy across the site. She also checked into the possibility of changing the image on the homepage banner, which is possible, but needs to be done through the Mayor's office due to specific website permissions.

The insurance claim for the accident that damaged the fence and banner pole has been paid in full. The fence and post will be replaced in the spring, once the ground has thawed. Vadney has also been in contact with several design companies for the updated front sign and Sputnik site.

All staff training will be conducted on March 25. This will include first aid training provided by the fire department, which will highlight basic emergency training for frontline staff. Diana and Melissa have been working on training the weekend staff, getting them more comfortable using email and other office technologies.

Vadney will be attending Museum Advocacy Day in Washington DC, February 25-27. March 11 he will attend the Association of Midwest Museums director meeting. AMM is considering holding the 2020 annual meeting in Wisconsin and Vadney will be working to coordinate this effort in his role as the Wisconsin Federation of Museums President. The AMM's annual meeting usually draws about 200 attendees. On March 12, Diana will be attending Arts Day in Madison, representing the Rahr-West. Vadney will be attending the Governor's Conference on Tourism March 18 & 19. Not only does participation represent the arts, it also provides access to tourist organizations.

7. Rahr-West Friends Committee Report – Gehrig

Christmas in the Mansion takedown proved to be challenging for the Friends. The group will work with Melissa to streamline the process and make it more similar to tablesettings, where people are selected to participate from a pool. It was also mentioned that some of the decorators were out of town and unable to take down their trees. The Friends worked for three days to clean up the third floor. New guidelines will be established for decorators to follow. It was also mentioned that it may be beneficial to have decorators sign an agreement.

Shope sales have been quiet, as is normal at this time of the year. They are working on getting spring items for the Shoppe. Halla mentioned that he received a lot of positive comments regarding the Shoppe while greeting guests for the Foundation Fundraiser.

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The Friends will be holding a tea in May and have invited a lady to come in and speak about aprons.

8. Foundation Report-Vice President Mike Halla

Financial accounts were reviewed. It was noted that some accounts are higher due to the annual appeal and fundraiser. The Janet Planet fundraiser was a lovely evening. The meal and crowd were great and very positive feedback was received. Halla offered his appreciation to all involved in the planning and preparation process.

9. Collection Report—Bolander

Did not meet. The conservation assessment application was sent in and a response should be received yet this month.

10. Old Business

Although it is not old business, Vadney mentioned that the Youth Art Series will kick off on Sunday, March 3 at 1:00pm. Board members are encouraged to attend the opening.

A question was raised as to the status of new lounge furniture. Vadney and Sandy from the Friends group are still exploring various avenues to find furniture that is a good fit. They are looking into something modular for flexibility. The target date for this is the coming summer.

11. Adjourn

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

Submitted by Melissa Franz, Administrative Support Specialist