**MARION ART COUNCIL MINUTES**

April 12, 2016, 5:30 P.M.

Lowe Park Art and Environment Center

ROLL CALL: Fuf Renfer, Pat Schmidt, Brenda Kowalsky, Angie Pierce Jennings (phone), Dennis Frevert, Charlene Briggs, Elizabeth Wilson

ABSENT:

STAFF: Mary Ann Bries

GUESTS:

Art in the Alley

Fuf updated the council regarding the Art in the Alley project. The contractor is scheduled to begin work on the alley during the week of April 18. Re-striping areas of Uptown Marion to provide additional public parking will occur the week prior. The groundbreaking for the ImaginArt in the Alleys project will be held on Saturday, April 23 at 10 a.m. This event coincides with the City Showcase being held in City Square Park. Contracts have been signed with 7 artists and 2 more contracts are on the Council agenda for approval at the April 14 meeting. If those are approved, the project will have signed contracts from Jake Balcom, Luke Crawley and Quincy Owens, Cara Briggs Farmer, Matthew Kargol, Cecelia Lueza, Dale Merrill, Chris Miller, Dan Perry and John Schwartzkopf. These contracts total $161,170. Two additional artists' (Priscilla Steele and Douglas Lochner) proposals are undergoing SHPO (State Historic Preservation Office) review. Depending on timeline and whether they are approved, these pieces may not be installed until next year. Karen Hoyt is continuing to work on a potential artistic compass piece for the middle section of the alley. This compass piece may be painted or pavers. Karen is also identifying planter boxes, trash receptacles, and additional benches for the alleyways.

Sculpture Trail Committee Update

Brenda updated the council on the Sculpture Trail Committee. The committee consists of Brenda, Pat, Bob Naujoks, Katie Lowe-Lancaster, Jay Moore and Marge Jensen. Brenda discussed with Amanda Kaufman at City Hall deadlines for the project. Amanda said as long the committee has a plan in place then they don't need to rush on a deadline date. The committee felt they would have a piece for the trail by fall. Jay Moore checked with the Parks Department about moving the yellow piece named "Liberation". Bob Naujoks has taken pictures of the Sculpture Trail and they will be added to the website. The committee will be having their next meeting on Thursday,

April 14.

Other Art News

The council received a flyer from a for-profit company. The members decided they will not hang the flyer since the City is a non-profit.

Exhibits

The May/June exhibit is by Rock Tai and Cris Sell. The July/August exhibit will be Tamera and Brian Jensen. The September/October exhibit will be Dianna Dunn and Jan Bell. The Iowa Art Quilters will be exhibiting in July and August of 2017. The art exchange will be done on Saturday, April 30 at 10 a.m. This is the morning of swim lesson sign-up for the Parks Department so the artwork will be switched later in the morning then normal. Bowman Woods reception will be Thursday, April 14 at 5:30. Fuf said she can attend the reception. Oakridge Middle School will be exhibiting in May.

Coffeehouse Night

Lojo Russo performed at the April 8 Coffeehouse Night. She was also a well-liked artist. The members will discuss in May the dates for 2016-2017 Coffeehouse Nights. At that time the Council will also discuss drawing a more diverse crowd to the Coffeehouse Night events.

Budget

It was noted that the MAC has money budgeted for updating and printing the Marion Art Council brochures. Charlene will update the brochure. Mary Ann said she will check with Amber at City Hall to determine if the new City logo needs to be placed on the brochure.

Old Business

The MAC members decided to discuss the additional permanent artwork and a rotating schedule at City offices in the fall. Elizabeth Wilson has been approved by City Council to be on MAC. Fuf mentioned Janice White is interested in becoming an associate member.

New Business

The Motel /Hotel Tax Grant is now open to apply. Elizabeth and Fuf said they will apply for MAC for money for the second concert MAC is sponsoring. Mary Ann will send them information she has regarding the Motel / Hotel Tax Grant application and a copy of the information Swamp Fox committee submitted in the past.

The City is having a City Showcase on Saturday, April 23 from 10 to 1. Angie and Elizabeth said they would be available to help with the "Chalk Walk" portion of the event. Brenda will bring the updated MAC banner, flyers and binder with Coffeehouse Night flyers to the City Showcase. Pat and Fuf will attend the ImaginArt in the Alley groundbreaking ceremony at 10. Fuf will then go to City Square Park to help with the "Chalk Walk".

Picnic on the Prairie will be Saturday, August 20.

Switching the day of the MAC meetings was mentioned again. It was decided to leave the meetings on Tuesday evenings due to the summer concerts being held on Thursday evenings. The council will discuss this again in the fall.

Pat will check with the library about possibly having school art banners displayed there at the same time as the Marion Arts Festival.

Elizabeth mentioned The Ceramics Center has a mobile clay unit that would be a fun activity to bring to Lowe Park. They will discuss having this more in the fall.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday,
May 10, at 5:30 p.m. at the Lowe Park Art and Environment Center.