**MARION ART COUNCIL MINUTES**

September 10, 2019 5:30 P.M.

Lowe Park Art and Environment Center

ROLL CALL: Fuf Renfer, Jay Moore, Jane Strnad Nelson, Leslie Montgomery Fox, Angie Pierce Jennings, Pat Schmidt

ABSENT: Brenda Kowalsky

STAFF: Tracey Bellach

GUESTS: None

Call to Order

The meeting of the Marion Arts Council was called to order by Fuf at 5:35pm.

Approval of the August 13, 2019 minutes

The minutes of the August 13, 2019, were approved. Motion made by Leslie, seconded by Jane. Motion passed.

Sculpture Committee

Tracey read a message from Karlene Hummel informing them that our maintenance staff will be looking at getting the art sculpture secured down.

Exhibits

The Sept. - Oct. exhibit is Bob Strickland, photographer, August 31 to November 2, with a reception on Wednesday, September 11.

The remaining 2019/20 exhibit schedule (revised) is as follows:

November 2 to February 1- Karen Sands, pottery and paintings

February 1 to February 29 - Mt. Mercy University & Kirkwood Community College

March 7 to May 2 - Cara Briggs Farmers and Ben High

May 2 to June 27 - Siljie Lynne

June 27 to August 29 - Stan Weiderspan

The Iowa Pastel Society will exhibit in April 2020 in conjunction with their annual meeting and will display in the Hall Gallery. The permanent collection will be removed to accommodate this exhibit for one month.

Linn Mar and Marion schools will start exhibiting in October.

Cecile Houel is interested in exhibiting and has done a series of pastel Nobel Prize winner portraits. Exhibit dates have not been set yet.

Last month’s quilt exhibit was discussed. The exhibit was a great success but it was a challenge to hang so many quilts. It was decided that in the future, quilt exhibits would have a set of number quilts could displayed.

The installation of the current photography exhibit was hung with different method because the artwork was not wired. Some pieces fell with one being damaged. Another hanging system was used and the artwork stayed up. One piece was damaged. There was some discussion regarding compensation to the artist for the damage which ensued. There will be a discussion regarding reimbursement at the October meeting should the artist request it. Also, the exhibition request form will be revised to make sure artists understand that their artwork must be wired in order to be hung correctly & safely using the gallery system.

Coffeehouse Nights

The performance schedule is as follows:

October 4 - High Crest duo of Des Moines featuring Kat Darling

November 1 - The Better Haves, ukulele duo of Mt Vernon featuring Leah Woosley

December 6 - Banjoy, bluegrass band from Iowa City led by Bob Black

(5-piece band)

February 7 - IrishJam led by Carlis Faurot of Cedar Rapids

March 6 - Folk duo Tara McGovern & Keith Reins

April 3 – TBA

Jane and Fuf will check supplies needed for the first event.

Jay will take care of ordering food for the event from Hy-Vee. Pat will pick up the food and coffee and will also provide ice for the event.

Free-will offering will be utilized for water as a beverage option. Patrons are also encouraged to bring their own cup from home to accomplish the same.

Picnic on the Prairie Concert Review

Performance by the Dandelion Stompers was excellent. 175-200 attended. While the numbers in attendance were less than expected, Fuf reminded everyone that we are about offering a bigger outdoor venue for local artists. That comes first - attendance second. Blue Dog Band was recommended to perform at one of the concerts for next year.

August Plein Air Workshop

Gordon Kellenberger instructed. Nine artists participated. Everyone said, “a great day”!

Budget Review

Jay researched options for concession for this year’s Coffeehouse Nights and provided the results. A motion to use Hy-Vee for this year’s events was made by Leslie seconded by Jane. Motion passed.

Jay donated a beverage dispenser to be used at the Coffeehouse event in place of bottled water. The council discussed options to ascertain water to fill the dispenser and what to charge. It was decided to use Marion Water and to have a free-will offering. This option reiterated being green, raising environmental awareness and keeping recycling costs down. Patrons are also encouraged to bring their own cup from home to accomplish the same.

Old Business

Volunteer hours spread sheet review

New Business

Over the past weekend, artwork was removed from the permanent collection so decorations could be hung in their place. The Arts Council wants to remind people that artwork needs to be left alone. The possibility of adding this to the lease was discussed as well as making sure this is included in the list of rules discussed during the tour prior to placing reservation on the schedule.

Fuf noted that Jason Everett is exploring locations to create a large Marion mural, including Lowe Park. He will be invited to explain his proposal at the next meeting.

Old Business

There was no report on additional security for outdoor events from Mike Carolan. Karlene to check into this issue.

A letter sent to Jill Ackerman in support of the “Our Town Grant.” It was since noted that the Arts Council will have minimal involvement in the specifics of the conditions of the grant application. It was suggested that Jill Ackerman be invited to a meeting to explain the specifics about the grant.

Friends of the Park grant application has been submitted. Jay will report when more information is available.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:40pm with a motion by Pat and seconded by Jane.

**Next meeting -Tuesday, November 12, at 5:30 p.m.**

**Lowe Park Art and Environment Center**