**MARION ART COUNCIL MINUTES**

October 08, 2019 5:30 P.M.

Lowe Park Art and Environment Center

ROLL CALL: Fuf Renfer, Jane Strnad Nelson, Leslie Montgomery Fox, Pat Schmidt

ABSENT: Brenda Kowalsky (arrived at 6:17 p.m.) Jay Moore, Angie Pierce Jennings

STAFF: Karlene Hummel

GUESTS: Jill Ackerman; Marion Chamber and Jason Everett; Hope Travels

Call to Order

The meeting of the Marion Arts Council was called to order by Fuf at 5:31pm.

Minutes

Moved by Jane and seconded by Leslie to approve the September 10, 2019, Art Council minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

Sculpture Committee

Karlene discussed putting together a Lowe Art Sculpture Trail informal flier. This is part of the parks and recreation initive goals for FY20. Pat submittied an example of the Art on The River flier used in Dubuque. Fuf and Karlene will work on putting some ideas on paper.

Global Hope Murals

Jason Everett, with Hope Travels presented an idea for a Mural of Hope project in Marion.

Hope Travels is an Agent of Impact program supporting the mental health education program of [Hope for the Day](https://www.hftd.org/). The mission is to develop positive community connections while raising visibility about proactive mental health and the power of hope. As founders of the Hope Mural Project, Nancy Bartosz and Jason Everett have facilitated the creation of murals with local artists and nonprofit organizations in over 20 venues throughout the world.

Art Council was in favor of his concept and liked the idea. They suggeted Jason contact Deb Bailey with the Marion Arts Festival, Fuf will get him contacts for the local middle school art teachers, and Jill Ackerman, Marion Chamber; suggested contacting the Holly with the Marion Library.

Fuf suggested to Jason he consider being an exhibitor at Lowe in 2020.

Our Town Grant

Jill Ackerman gave an update on the federal funded Our Town Grant. The grant is for planning purposes only; engineering documents and other concepts involved with the initial project. The grant will be used for the Marion Plaza Project; 11th Street along City Square Park as well as the far east side of the park. The project would help beautify the park. Jill also gave an update on the mall area near the park. They also will apply for Great Places Grant in early November.

Exhibits

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

Linn Mar and Marion schools will start exhibiting in October, Bowman Woods is the first to have their work on display.

Moved by Jane and seconded by Pat to reimburse the cost of damaged photo to Bob Strickland, after Karlene confirms that art council can make this reimbursement purchase. Fuf updated the council that the exhibit request form has been revised to make sure artists understand their artwork must be wired in order to be hung correctly and safely using the gallery system in place at Lowe. After no further discussion motion carried.

Coffeehouse Nights

The performance schedule is as follows:

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

October 4 - High Crest duo of Des Moines featuring Kat Darling had an attendance of 43. The weather and chocolate walk were discussed as reasons for the lower attendance number. In an initiative to go green attendees were asked to bring their own coffee cups, this went well.

It was discussed to have more bars and pasties, while limiting the amount of cookies ordered from Hy-Vee.

Picnic on the Prairie Concert – June 2020

A discussion on performer ideas for 2020 took place. One idea was having two past coffee house performers each play for a set of an hour to hour and a half. Karlene also recommended Ayla Brown. She was a past performer on American Idol, she performs her own music. He has ties back to Iowa and would love to perform at the Lowe Amphitheater.

Budget Review

Karlene reported no changes to the budget balances.

Karlene informed the council the budget process for FY21 was beginning this week.

Old Business

The council would like to see if there is a way to secure the movable gallery wall while it’s in the open position. Rents closed the wall and used the gallery area to change before a wedding. They are concerned with people moving the wall artwork could get damaged.

New Business

Angie has asked that when sending her music contact information to please use the formal email address; [marionarts@cityofmarion.org](mailto:marionarts@cityofmarion.org). Brenda has a new email address [bjk@imonmail.com](mailto:bjk@imonmail.com)

Fuf will email Karlene the tips for securing grant money from Karne Hoyt.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:47.

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

**Lowe Park Art and Environment Center**