

MARION ART COUNCIL MINUTES

December 8, 2015, 5:30 P.M.

Low Park Art and Environment Center

ROLL CALL: Fuf Renfer, Pat Schmidt, Dennis Frevert, Brenda Kowalsky, Patsi Gann

ABSENT: Charlene Briggs, Angie Pierce Jennings

STAFF: Mary Ann Bries

GUESTS:

Art in the Alley

No update at this time. Fuf did report the infrastructure bid came in 3 times higher than expected. Fuf will check the infrastructure progress and also report any other progress with Art in the Alley. A question was brought up about public access to the alleys; like photographers being allowed to use the alleys for picture backdrops etc. Fuf will also check on this and report back to the Council.

Sculpture Trail Committee Update

Brenda is working on the rough draft of an Artist RFW / RFP for the new sculpture piece. Pat expressed his concern with the process for the sculpture trail and wanted to make sure we are proceeding in accordance to the Master Art Plan for the City. Dennis reported the Master Art Plan was done in 2012 and discussed how in the past MAC had planned and implemented putting up the present sculptures at Lowe. Dennis motioned that Fuf and Brenda take the plans for the Signature Sculpture piece for the entrance to Mike to make sure we are proceeding correctly. Patsi seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed. Fuf let the art council know that Marg Jensen and Jay Moore, Friends of the Park members, both agreed to be on the Sculpture Trail Committee. Fuf mentioned Karlene Hummel's suggestion of incorporating kid friendly artwork in the plan. She will also ask Mike about this when they meet with him.

Other Art News

Sharon Burns-Knutson has contacted Fuf about donating several pieces of artwork. After consideration, MAC would like to have Sharon donate up to 4 art pieces. Discussion on how to exhibit some of our permanent art pieces in other City buildings will be discussed at an upcoming meeting.

Exhibits

Fuf let the council know that Cornell will not be exhibiting this year. She will contact Coe College and Kirkwood to see if they would be interested in having an exhibit at Lowe Park. The December/January exhibit of "Creative Legacies" is by Julie Kulish, Zach Kulish and Bruno Randles. The artist's reception will be on December 17 from 6:30 to 8:00. Fuf will set up for the reception and Dennis and Brenda will be available to help at it. The current school exhibit is from Francis Marion Intermediate School. The art teacher, Michelle Weisinger, has requested no reception due to busy time of year at school. The February 2016 exhibit will be from Mt. Mercy University and another local college. The art exchange date and artist reception date will be set after confirmation with the colleges exhibiting. Barb Weeks-Caudill plus another artist will be at the March/April exhibit. The May/June exhibit will be by Rock Tai and another artist. Fuf showed the council pictures of artwork from several new artists. Cris Sell and Yelena Mass are possible artists to exhibit with Barb Weeks-Caudill and Rock Tai. Max Zhang Photography and

Ron Ginther are possible artists for 2016 exhibits. The school exhibits scheduled are January: Bowman Woods; February: Wilkins; March: Linn-Mar High School; April: Novak and May: Oakridge Middle School.

Coffeehouse Night

Coffeehouse Night on November 6 with Sam Knutson had 38 people attending the performance. This number includes MAC members that were in attendance. Several other local activities including Santa's arrival in the Park and the Peppermint Walk affected the number of people attending the performance. Sam Knutson did not have a cd to purchase. In the future, the cost of the performer's cd will be included in the contract. The February 5 performer will be the Bryce Janey and Freddy Jones duo. Lojo Russo will be performing at the April 8 Coffeehouse Night. Mary Ann suggested Terry McCauley for the March 4 performance. She will forward his information to Angie.

One of the stage lights is not working. Dennis tried replacing with a new light bulb but found that is not the problem. Ed Chalstrom, a Park Department employee, also looked at the light. Mary Ann will check to see what account fixing the light will come out of and Fuf will bring the stage light to West Music to fix.

Old Business

Brenda, Dennis and Ron Renfer hung the gallery signs. It was mentioned more lighting in the gallery would be needed to accommodate larger exhibits. There is not enough lights to illuminate the amount of pieces hanging on the walls.

Mary Ann updated the council on the MAC website switching to the City of Marion website. She is working with Lunar Pages and Sarah Daricilar to get a back-up copy of the site before it is closed.

New Business

Red Cedar Chamber Concert will be Thursday, March 31 at 7:00. They will arrive at 6:00 and requested 4 armless chairs and use of a screen.

Suggestions for new members was discussed.

Mary Ann will check into getting another key for the Art Council for Brenda to have. Mary Ann will also order a year calendar for the wall, Scotch brand double mounting tape for wooden tags, a printer ribbon, name cards to labeling pictures, and several rolls of masking tape for the Art Council.

Brenda emailed the members the steps for MAC artwork. All flyers and postcards will be first sent to Mary Ann at mbries@cityofmarion.org to submit to Amber Bisinger, Communications Coordinator, for approval. Once approved, the flyers will be emailed to Karlene at khummel@cityofmarion.org for City website posting and to Marion Art Council. The files will be 1 UP jpg file with no trim marks and no bleeds. Mary Ann will print 20 postcards for the gallery exhibitors, 10 postcards to mail to local care facilities and 15 posters for exhibits and Coffeehouse Nights. The postcards will be printed with 2 on a sheet, smaller then 4 1/4 by 5 1/2 but larger then printing 4 on a sheet. The distribution of the posters are: Brenda 2 (1 to save and 1 for Huk Printing), Dennis 5 (Wit's End, Library, Farmers State Bank, 2 at City Hall), Charlene 2 (Blue Strawberry, Cedar Rapids Library), Fuf 2 (Linn-Mar Schools), and Pat 5 (Iowa City New PI, Iowa City library, Iowa City Bread Garden, Coralville New PI, Cedar Rapids New PI). Other locations to bring posters to are Hills Bank, Maid-rite, and Iowa Popcorn. Karlene

will place all information on the City newsletter and website and Brenda will send to all the MAC members and place on MAC Facebook page. All members should like and share these pages to help spread information regarding MAC.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 12, at 5:30 p.m. at the Lowe Park Art and Environment Center.