

MARION ART COUNCIL MINUTES

March 8, 2016, 5:30 P.M.

Low Park Art and Environment Center

ROLL CALL: Fuf Renfer, Pat Schmidt, Brenda Kowalsky, Angie Pierce Jennings (phone),
Dennis Frevert (came late)

ABSENT: Charlene Briggs

STAFF: Mary Ann Bries

GUESTS:

Art in the Alley

Fuf updated the council regarding the Art in the Alley project. Linn County Supervisors gave \$75,000 to the project and will have naming rights due to the large amount they donated to the project. The Supervisors have asked Karen Hoyt to compile a list of name suggestions. Karen sent an email to the Alley Committee and received several suggestions. The name suggestions will be forwarded after the City Manager's approval. The Art in the Alley Project was featured on Art Place Americas Blog and received 10,000 views.

Sculpture Trail Committee Update

Brenda updated the council on the Sculpture Trail Committee. They held a meeting on February 18 with Brenda, Pat, Bob Naujoks, Katie Lowe Lancaster, Jay Moore and Dennis present. Marge Jensen was unable to make the meeting due other commitments. Dennis and Katie gave the committee a brief review of the sculpture trail history with discussion following. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 10. The committee will be ready to do a call of entry after this next meeting. Mike Carolan expressed concerns about deadlines and having something in writing by July.

Other Art News

Angie mentioned Willis Dady Emergency Shelter is having an event on March 11. They are having donated artwork bought with volunteer hours.

Exhibits

The Wilkin's reception was well attended with 60 people and the Mt. Mercy reception had 20 people in attendance. The art exchange for Barb Weets-Caudill and Jefferson Henshaw was held on Saturday, March 5. The artist's reception will be Thursday, March 10 from 6:30 to 8 with the Linn-Mar High School reception to be held before at 5:30. The May/June exhibit will be 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 school exhibits scheduled are Bowman Woods in April and Oakridge Middle School in May.

Coffeehouse Night

The quartet Feralings performed at the March 4 Coffeehouse Night and was well attended. Lojo Russo will be performing at the April 8 Coffeehouse Night. Lojo Russo will be using the MAC sound system at her performance.

Angie mentioned at the last Coffeehouse Night the air fresheners in the bathrooms were extremely strong. She would prefer none since the building is an environmental center. Pat mentioned the bathrooms have no circulation and was needed. Mary Ann thought new ones were just put in so stronger and will check on how they work.

Budget

Mary Ann printed out the budget report on 8 X 14 sheet of paper so easier to read. Fuf mentioned that next year no money has been budgeted for new permanent artwork. Mary Ann said the reasoning was for the Art Council to focus on the Sculpture Trail and a plan to rotate the permanent artwork into other City buildings.

Old Business

It was discussed having a cabinet built to hold some of the 3D permanent artwork the council has. Mary Ann would check into the possibility of this with the Art Council's current budget.

Elizabeth Wilson has begun the process of becoming a MAC member. Fuf motioned to have Elizabeth Wilson appointed to the Marion Arts Council; Brenda seconded the motion. Pat mentioned Elizabeth is on several boards and wanted to be sure she was aware of the time commitment. Fuf said she discussed the time commitment with Elizabeth and Elizabeth was committed to becoming a member. The council voted and all were in favor of recommending Elizabeth to the Marion Art Council. Mary Ann will pass their recommendation on to Mike Carolon.

Mary Ann put the April 8 Coffeehouse Night on Hoopla. Cultural Corridor cost money to be a member and list things on their website. The council thought they are having a great turnout at the Coffeehouse Night performances so becoming a member of Cultural Corridor was unnecessary at this time.

The Red Cedar Chamber concert will be March 31 from 7 to 8:30. The show is called "Music and Magic Lanterns". MAC members will arrive at 6 to set up and will hold a reception at intermission.

New Business

Picnic on the Prairie will be Saturday, August 20. Music performance will be by Carol Montag and Carlis Faurot. The council decided not to schedule an opening act. Guests will be invited to bring their own picnic basket; MAC will not be having any food or drinks available that evening. The council decided to sponsor 2 concerts at the amphitheater in the future; the first Saturday in June (June 3, 2017) and the third Saturday in August (August 19, 2017). The council also discussed the acoustics at the amphitheater with sound bouncing off the Arts & Environment Center. They were wondering if the Parks Department was planning on planting trees or have a sound engineer look at different options to improve the acoustics.

Fuf will send emails to all members reminding of them of upcoming events so more people can be present to help.

Fuf received information from Karlene regarding helping at the chalk walk. The City is having a City Showcase on Saturday, April 23 from 10 to 1 and would like help with a sidewalk chalk event they are having. The members will look at their calendars and see who is available to help at the event.

Marion Times came to the Arts and Environment Center on Saturday, March 5 while the artwork was being switched to the new exhibit. Fuf and Dennis talked to them about the Marion Art Council and an article will be in the Marion Times on March 10.

Pat mentioned a school art event he attended in Des Moines. The local schools made art banners to display in one of the City building with art pieces by each Des Moines Schools' art instructors. He thought having a display in the library at the same time as the Marion Arts Festival would be a fun addition to the event.

Adjournment

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