

WICKFORD ART ASSOCIATION

Board meeting minutes

May 18, 2010

Members present: Howard Rubenstein, Sharon Alemany, Ken MacDonald, Fred Meli, Liz Donovan, Kristen Bryce, Janet Tobin, Lori Jeremiah, Sandi King, John Pitocco, and Francie Christopherson

Meeting was called to order by President, Howard Rubenstein at 6:40 PM.

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Elizabeth Donovan was called on and presented a proposal for the NK Library to do a program entailing a slide presentation of the history of the WAA. Discussion was held and Elizabeth had noted that Gail Burda had agreed to narrate and help with the project. The archives of the festival and WAA will be made available to Gail and Liz to proceed with the development of the presentation.

Howard had scheduled a meeting with the NK Police Chief and Town Manager regarding the increasing expenses of the WAA which included clean-up and police detail, the chief was not present but Capt. Mulligan stated that they would not be able to reduce the costs of the detail. The Town Manager will speak to the Rotary about the parking donations at Wilson Park as this revenue used to go to help offset costs of the WAA but now goes entirely to the rotary. Discussion was held regarding vendors and other organizations benefiting from the festival and not helping defray the costs. Various solutions were proposed but no final decisions were made. Howard was to hear at the end of the week from the Town Manager. Suggestions included approaching the Town Council, sending a letter to the Rotary, approaching the Standard Times, and approaching other community organizations.

Lease extension was proposed by Howard to the Town Manager in order to help with grant and fund raising for the expansion of the gallery. Howard wrote a letter to the Town Manager which was approved by the board making this formal request

Request was also made regarding a sign for the WAA on Route 1A and the manager asked for the request in writing which was approved by the board.

The current owners of Ryan's contacted Howard about a possible art gallery on the second floor of the market. Howard looked at the space which needs extensive renovation and together with the board thought this would be a viable option for an extension of the current gallery and provide more visibility to the WAA. Howard is awaiting a return call from the Pearlmans.

Flood insurance policy was discussed. WAA currently pays \$8,000 for this coverage and discussion ensued. It was decided by vote of the board to up the deductible now and cancel

the policy if it can be reinstated if need be for the expansion of the gallery, and self insure the building.

Howard suggested having a corporate sponsor for at least one art show at the gallery which would hopefully attract larger number of entries and the offering of much larger cash prizes. Fred will look into bank sponsorship for this event.

The purchase of a shed for storage was approved by the board and Ken will look into this.

Suggestion was made to reinstate Artist Critique Night once per month. Kristen will contact Carole Berren regarding chairing this group and Janet offered to help with the organization of this.

GALLERY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Kristen read a letter from artist member Theresa Girard regarding use of "Off Our Walls" title for a possible fund raiser. The minutes reflected this was merely a suggestion but the WAA will assure Theresa via a letter that it would not use this as a title.

There was a problem with email for about one week but this has been resolved.

Maggie, the intern at the Gallery will graduate this May and the board approved a gift certificate to Viola Gallery as a gift to honor her graduation and thank her for her work at the gallery.

FESTIVAL REPORT

John will look into printing raffle tickets for the art work to be raffled at the festival. Works are on display at the gallery.

Francie is working on space assignments and reported that the back page of the WAA has been sold. She asked for photo samples to be used for the front of the brochure, she will contact North Star Printing about designing and printing this year's brochure. Brochure will also be posted on the website. Artist names will now appear alphabetically rather than by space number.

BUILDING COMMITTEE

Trish Marcoccio and Steve Patience met and developed a rough floor plan which was shared with the board. Several suggestions made will be communicated to the committee.

WEB_SITE COMMITTEE

John and Sandi have met and reviewed a number of sites and drawn up a tentative idea of the design. John would like to model it after Frist Museum site which he encouraged the board to review and e-mail comments to him.

MEMBERSHIP

Lori Jeremiah reported that the next jury for new artist members will be June 2. Sharon Alemany will look for copies of letters used in the past for acceptance or not together with other information she had when she was membership chair of this committee.

PUBLICITY

Advertisements for photo show and other upcoming show will appear in Art Guides, Jamestown Press, SK Independent, WPRI online and WCRI. Festival will be in Yankee Magazine, ½ page ad in South County Living, Art Guide. Fred will contact the ProJo about an article and Liz will contact the Villager.

PHOTO GROUP

About 20 – 30 members attend meetings. June, July and August meetings will involve outside photo shoots followed by critiques at the gallery. The 2011 calendar rough draft was presented for board review. John will include history of the WAA and festival, mission statement, limited edition information. The calendar can be sold for \$10.00 and members of the Photo Group will help with the sale at the WAA Festival.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Tobin
Recording Secretary