

MINUTES
Waukesha Public Library Board
Public Art Committee Meeting
Tuesday, June 14, 2016 4:00 P.M.
Board Meeting Room

Members Present: Chris Audley, Cynthia Deatruck, Joan Francoeur, Lynn Gaffey, Larry Nelson, Lynn Preston, Barb Reinhart, Julie Stockinger and Executive Library Director Grant Lynch

Members Absent: Sylvia Trewyn

Others Present: Administrative Assistant Joan Quinlan

Committee Chair L. Preston opened the meeting at 4:05 p.m. The Committee welcomed new members Chris Audley and Julie Stockinger.

1. Approval of the minutes for January 20, 2016.

B. Reinhart moved to approve the minutes for the January 20, 2016 meeting as presented. C. Deatruck seconded, motion carried unanimously.

2. Discussion/action regarding how to identify the Community Art Space

Committee Chair L. Preston explained to the new committee members the application process for allowing artists to display their artwork on the community art space wall. The applications are approved if they meet the guidelines set forth in the public art policy. Because it is a community art space, a broad range of artwork is accepted. She discussed several concepts for identifying the community art space wall and distributed a draft of her ideas. The Committee agreed that the wording to identify the space should be centered above the wall. They debated whether the font/style of the lettering should match other signage within the library building. Large 3-D lettering, stick on lettering, and painted lettering were all discussed as possibilities. It was determined that a small sub-committee would further investigate the best way to identify the community art space. Julie Stockinger, Lynn Preston and Chris Audley volunteered to be on the sub-committee.

3. Discussion/action regarding relocation of artwork

Committee Chair L. Preston said that if there were no objections, she would like to re-locate the *Oneida Girl* painting to a small wall which is near the windows overlooking the burial mounds. She said that the smaller Weber paintings may also be re-located, but not until a larger piece of artwork is found for that location. The Committee agreed that the *Oneida Girl* painting should be re-located to the space closer to the burial mounds in the park. Chris Audley offered to install security hardware on the *Oneida Girl* painting and mount the artwork in its new location.

4. Discussion/action regarding fundraising ideas/activities/possible request for proposals

Committee Chair L. Preston asked the committee what they believed would be the best way to move forward with acquiring additional works of art for the library; should a request for proposal precede any fundraising activity. C. Deatruck said that looking at areas in the library that lend themselves to artwork would be a good place to begin. B. Reinhardt stated that the previous proposals included options for the artists to consider. L. Preston wondered if the committee was ready to ask for proposals. L. Gaffey said that the funding for the

artwork has always worked out. J. Stockinger asked if the proposal specifies 2-D or sculptures. Executive Director G. Lynch said that the library has grounds where a sculpture could be located, but was afraid that the cost may be prohibitive. A hanging piece or mobile located in the lobby or central atrium could be another possibility. L. Gaffey inquired about the balance in the art fund. Executive Director G. Lynch explained that the public art fund is part of the gift fund, which does not have restrictions on how the money is used. If the committee decides to move forward with a request for proposal, he suggested doing a direct mailing to solicit funds for the project. C. Deatruck added that the Friends have committed a substantial amount of funding to public art. It was suggested that the Waukesha County Community Foundation may be another option for funding public art. C. Deatruck asked how much a hanging mobile would cost. L. Preston replied that a mobile could cost up to \$10,000. J. Francoeur said that the fire station sculpture had an original cost of \$50,000-\$70,000; the project has since been scaled back. The Committee discussed the timeline of when they wanted the RFP to be sent out and what the deadline should be.

L. Preston reviewed the criteria listed in the Public Art Policy, noting the preference for Waukesha County artists. She expressed concern that the Committee was excluding talented artists by only selecting Waukesha County artists; remarking that the policy is written more broadly so that Wisconsin artists could be considered. L. Gaffey felt very strongly regarding the preference clause because Milwaukee County has placed very narrow restrictions on many of their art projects and competitions, excluding anyone from Waukesha County. She stated that this is the Waukesha community's library. (L. Gaffey left) C. Audley said that he would rather go outside to obtain a piece of artwork that is something the Committee really wants, rather than settle on an artist simply because they live here. C. Deatruck commented that the library is about sharing resources and maybe it's time to think differently. J. Francoeur said that the Committee has to stand for quality. Executive Director G. Lynch added that the artwork brings a certain prestige to the library and is a great collection of treasures. J. Stockinger agreed that the library is a destination. The RFP will be finalized and presented to the Library Board in July for their approval.

5. Discussion/action regarding requests to display art – Community Art Space

Committee Chair L. Preston said that two artists submitted applications to display their artwork on the Community Art Space wall. The Committee looked at several sample pieces that the artists had provided. There was also a request from the Pewaukee Area Arts Council to display student and teacher art during the month of April and May of 2017. This group will also be using their own panels for display purposes. J. Francoeur asked if the Committee generally accepts every application. L. Preston said that the criterion used for approving applications is similar to the selection process for the permanent collection. G. Lynch said that the Library subscribes to the tenets of the Library Bill of Rights, which states in part "Libraries which make exhibit spaces and meeting rooms available to the public they serve should make facilities available on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval." J. Francoeur said that this information should be posted. B. Reinhart pointed out that the artwork is on display temporarily. B. Reinhart moved to approve the applications for display. J. Stockinger seconded, the motion was approved unanimously. Because of the display schedule, the applications for the two artists were approved for two and a half months.

6. Discussion/recommendation regarding Library Policy B-3, Public Displays and Exhibit Space

Committee Chair L. Preston explained that the changes to the policy removes all references to the 'rotating art wall' and replaces them with the term 'community art space'.

J. Francoeur moved to recommend approval of Policy B-3, Display and Exhibit Space as amended. C. Deatrick seconded, motion carried unanimously.

7. Discussion/action regarding request to judge the Library's Summer Reading Club adult coloring contest

J. Quinlan explained that Information Services Manager Kori Hall is requesting that the Library's Public Art Committee judge the Adult Summer Reading Club coloring contest.

The Committee agreed to judge the Adult Summer Reading Club coloring contest.

B. Reinhart and J Stockinger volunteered to be judges contingent on their availability and the schedule for when the judging needs to be done.

L. Preston thought that it would be a nice gesture to dedicate the Waukesha Reads artwork to Karol Kennedy. Everyone agreed that this would be a wonderful way to honor Karol's role in Waukesha Reads and as a member of the Library's Public Art Committee. This item will be placed on the Library Board agenda.

8. Adjournment The meeting adjourned at 5:11 p.m.

J. Quinlan, Recorder