

MINUTES
Waukesha Public Library Board
Public Art Committee Meeting
Tuesday, January 31, 2017 3:30 P.M.
Library Board Room

Members Present: Chris Audley, Joan Francoeur, Executive Director Grant Lynch, Larry Nelson, Lynn Preston, Barb Reinhardt, and Sylvia Trewyn

Members Absent: Lynn Gaffey, Julie Stockinger, and Rose Sura

Others Present: Artists: Bill Lemke, Samantha Williams, Tom Rauschke and his wife Kaaren Wiken, Tom Martin, Joel Pfeiffer, and Special Projects Coordinator Joan Quinlan

Committee Chair L. Preston opened the meeting at 3:40 p.m.

1. Approval of the minutes for December 5, 2016

S. Trewyn moved to approve the minutes for December 5, 2016. L. Nelson seconded, motion carried unanimously.

2. Update on Community Art Space signage

Committee Chair Lynn Preston reported that the Public Art sub-committee met to look at options for the Community Art Space signage. Acrylic panels, font styles, sizes and colors were discussed. The group talked about making the word 'community' smaller than the words 'art space' and utilizing the colors and font from the library's logo to keep a consistent branding within the library. Given the budgetary constraints, she said that she would rather see any available monies spent on public art instead of the sign. Chris Audley showed the group a sample of an acrylic sign. He explained that the wall is approximately 30 feet long and that the sign could be 2 sections measuring 8 feet and would include standoff hardware similar to the sign holders already in use. He will investigate if Delzer would be willing to cover all or part of the cost. The Public Art Committee's sub-committee will continue to work on the project, but the group agreed that there was no urgency.

3. Interviews with selected artists: The Committee discussed the interview and selection process as well as fundraising. Larry Nelson said that the Committee has never made a commitment to an artist unless funding was available. Lynn Preston said that she did let the artists know that the Library currently does not have a budget.

Bill Lemke – Bill Lemke was introduced. He provided the Committee with a brief background on his education and experience. His photographic work consists mainly of landscape work. He studied and worked under famed photographer and environmentalist Ansel Adams. He proposed selling the Library a large format framed black and white photograph of a maple tree taken in Minooka Park, entitled "*Maple Tree in Fog*". He explained that he prefers using film and traditional methods of photography over digital. He finds that the traditional methods offer a richness and quality with subtle tone differences that cannot be found in digital photography. Joan Francoeur asked how photography becomes art. Bill explained that his use of light when taking his photos and his method of developing the negatives makes each print unique. The same photo can be developed differently, creating a one of a kind interpretation. The 27"x32" photograph would cost \$650.00. Larry Nelson asked if he was set on his proposed location for his photograph; the stairway up to the children's department. Mr. Lemke said that he was not and that he would

be honored to have his photograph hanging in the library. His daughter is depicted in the lobby painting. The Committee thanked Mr. Lemke for his proposal he left. The Committee discussed the possibility of adding Mr. Lemke's photograph to the collection and agreed that they would like to obtain his work, but wish to find a more suitable location for his photograph.

Samantha Williams – Samantha Williams introduced herself to the Committee. She is a recent graduate of MIAD (Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design). She distributed her proposal along with her artist statement. She wrote her thesis on encouraging creativity. Her proposal is a 20"x40" digital painting of fantasy creatures printed on canvas without glass (*An Allegory for Creativity*). The cost would be \$600.00. An option of using museum glass would add \$150.00 to the cost. Ms. Williams showed the group a sample of her work in full color. Her mockup was displayed in black and white rendering. Barb Reinhart wondered what type of ink was used in the process. Ms. Williams was unsure of the ink that the printer uses. Joan Francoeur asked about her artist statement and the connection with reading. Ms. Williams stated that her favorite things growing up were reading and art. Like reading, art has a story to tell. Joan Francoeur asked about why she chooses to work with digital painting. Ms. Williams expressed that with this technique she can work in layers to achieve different effects and textures. She loves using colors to enhance her creatures. Chris Audley inquired on the print process and whether the ink would run. Ms. Williams said that the print is dry mounted on board. She was unsure on the durability of the ink. The Committee asked Ms. Williams to provide her rendering to them in color. They thanked Ms. Williams for her time and she left.

Tom Rauschke – Tom Rauschke was introduced along with his wife Kaaren. Mr. Rauschke told the Committee that he specializes in fabricating wooden mobiles. He would love to be represented at the library, a place that holds many fond memories for him while growing up in Waukesha. He displayed several mobile pieces of various sizes that included Sandhill Cranes and Seagulls. He distributed a booklet with photos of his completed works. Many of his pieces are turned using a lathe and then hand carved. He utilizes native wood and the sculptures are finished with Tung oil, which preserves the pieces. Mr. Rauschke also fabricates astronomy mobiles. The cranes are quite large and a flock of 15-18 cranes would cost 8 to 10 thousand dollars, which includes installation. He could scale this down. The mobile would be hung with steel cables. It would take 6 months to a year to complete. He offers a lifetime guarantee. He proposed hanging a mobile from the ceiling in the staircase so the mobile could be seen in detail from the window in the children's department, but was open to any location that the Committee deemed suitable. The Committee thanked Mr. Rauschke and he and his wife left. The Committee particularly liked the idea of having the Sandhill Crane mobile over an astronomy mobile, as the birds are native to Wisconsin. They talked about the proposed space and looked at the atrium as an alternate location. Joan Francoeur commented that it is a piece that should be seen by all and not hidden. Given the high cost, it was suggested that the Library could solicit sponsors to fund the art. Larry Nelson suggested that the Committee could bring in potential sponsors to meet with the artist.

Tom Martin – Tom Martin was introduced. He thanked the Committee for considering his proposal to create a mobile for the center atrium of the library. He displayed a fabrication of the steel beam and hung colorful fish mobiles fabricated from wood and aluminum. These would be displayed from the upper beam, with the largest being 8 feet and the smallest at 1 foot. The lower beam would have sea creature mobiles fabricated from aluminum. Mr. Martin said that there would be about 16-20 sea creatures and 25-40 fish swimming above in schools. The title of the piece would be "Sea Above" and would cost \$5,400.00, including

installation. It would take him 3 months to complete. The Committee thanked Mr. Martin and he left.

Joel Pfeiffer – Mr. Pfeiffer was introduced to the group. He has been doing glass sculptures since 1998. He said that he was very excited to be here to present his proposal. He visited the library on three occasions to find the perfect locations for his art piece. On his last visit, he said that he was struck by the fact that the library is the “crown jewel in the community” and the perfect spot to showcase that was above the revolving door in the entryway. He distributed a digital rendering of what he envisioned for his artwork. He plans on using about 20 glass pieces of varying shapes and sizes with a stainless-steel band weaving through and connecting the pieces together. The largest glass piece would be 20” in diameter. The Committee were having difficulty envisioning how the completed piece would look. Mr. Pfeiffer drew a rendering on the whiteboard to show the Committee his idea. The art piece would be able to be moved if the door ever needed to be replaced. The timeframe for completing the artwork would be 3 months at a cost of \$6,500.00, which includes installation. The Committee thanked Mr. Pfeiffer for his time and he left.

4. Discussion/recommendation regarding artist selection and budget

Joan Francoeur commented that the Committee did a wonderful job in selecting the artists to be interviewed. (she left at 6:30 p.m.) The group discussed the best way to proceed with the process. The consensus of the Committee was to recommend approval of the purchase of William Lemke’s framed black and white photo with the location to be determined. The Committee decided to wait on a recommendation for Samantha William’s digital painting based on the color rendition that she provides to them. The Committee will recommend approval of Tom Rauschke’s wooden Sandhill Crane mobile contingent on funding. The Committee decided not to select Tom Martin’s mobile right now. Lynn Preston will contact him and encourage him to apply in the future. The group was intrigued with the idea of Joel Pfeiffer’s glass piece, but would like to see more. Lynn Preston will speak with Joel to see if he is willing to come back and work with the Committee through the process. The next meeting will be on March 7, 2017; time to be determined.

5. Adjournment

Absent any objections, the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

J. Quinlan, Recorder