

MINUTES
Waukesha Public Library Board
Public Art Committee Meeting
Monday, August 7, 2017 2:30 P.M.
Library Board Room

DRAFT

Members Present: Chris Audley, Lynn Gaffey, Larry Nelson, Lynn Preston, Rose Sura, Julie Stockinger, and Sylvia Trewyn

Members Absent: Joan Francoeur and Barb Reinhardt

Others Present: Guest: Heidi Hallett of the Pewaukee Area Arts Council, Interim Director John Klima, and Special Projects Coordinator Joan Quinlan

Committee Chair L. Preston opened the meeting at 2:34 p.m. Heidi Hallett from Pewaukee Area Arts Council was introduced.

1. Approval of the minutes for March 7, 2017

S. Trewyn moved to approve the minutes for March 7, 2017. L. Gaffey seconded, motion carried unanimously.

2. Pewaukee Area Arts Council (PAAC) presentation for possible art donation (Heidi Hallett)

Heidi Hallett from the Pewaukee Area Arts Council explained that their organization is piloting a fine arts placement program. Their goal is to promote public appreciation of original fine art by placing original artwork in municipal or public school buildings, thereby enriching the community environment with the many benefits that art has been shown to provide. If the Library would accept one of the pieces, the Pewaukee Area Arts Council would pay the artist. She displayed three pieces of art that were chosen by the PAAC selection committee.

The first piece called "A Great Day for a Parade" is a watercolor pen and ink drawing by artist Marilyn Horst. The second piece called "Deep Woods" by artist Teri Peterson is a mixed media assemblage. The final piece called "Sterling" is an oil painting of a cat by artist Heidi Hallett. Ms. Hallett said that she was not part of the selection committee that chose the artwork that is under consideration. Ms. Hallett confirmed that there would be no cost to the Library except for the acknowledgement plaque. (Ms. Hallett left at 2:50 p.m.)

3. Discussion/action regarding acceptance of PAAC art donation

Lynn Gaffey said that she did not feel that it was fair that these artists did not go through the RFP process like the artists in the Library's collection. She said that she was underwhelmed with the choices presented and would vote no to accepting one of these pieces of artwork. Sylvia Trewyn said that the only piece that she felt a connection with was the pen and ink comic art that could perhaps be placed in the Children's area of the Library. Larry Nelson said that while he respects Lynn's opinion, he would like to hear everyone's perspective regarding the quality of the work. Chris Audley questioned why PAAC wanted to donate a piece of art to the library. Lynn Preston responded that their goal is to place art in public places. Sylvia Trewyn said that her only concern was that the Committee worked hard to set the criteria for accepting artwork and wondered if this art met that criteria. Julie Stockinger said that the Committee should stick to the process. It was noted that the Library's Public Art Policy has a provision for accepting donations. Per the policy:

"Regardless of the source, all works of art are reviewed by the Committee with the same criteria". Mr. Nelson asked if one of the pieces of art appealed to anyone and if there is a place for it to go. Assistant Director John Klima said that the Children's Library has limited wall space available for public art. The walls have quotes and drawings as part of its design element. He added that the Children's Department also displays student art on their back wall. Julie Stockinger said that perhaps the Committee could let the PAAC know that the Committee is not interested in acquiring one of the pieces of artwork, but that they could apply in the future in response to a request for proposal. Lynn Preston agreed and said that she could encourage the PAAC to select an organization that does not have their own public art program. She said that the larger empty wall should be more of a priority for the Committee to look at. John Klima said that the Library has limited wall spaces available for public art and said that the Committee should be selective in what they choose to add. He stated that the Library has an excellent art collection with some exceptional pieces. L. Gaffey moved that the Committee respectfully decline the donation from the Pewaukee Area Arts Council. Julie Stockinger seconded, motion carried unanimously.

4. Discussion/action regarding art acquisitions updates and placement of artwork

Committee Chair Lynn Preston reported that the Library Board approved Bill Lemke's contract and his framed photograph is ready to be installed. The area they selected to display his artwork is on the back wall of the elevator; this necessitated relocating Marcia Schneider's piece. Her artwork will be moved to the back wall of the Carnegie reading room and it will be visible as you enter the room. They will be moving the two paintings by Chuck Weber to the wall near the ramp outside of the Carnegie reading room (where Jeanette Fellows' piece formerly hung). Larry Nelson suggested that the Committee notify the artists that their artwork is being moved. Lynn Preston said that she would e-mail the artists. The Committee discussed the necessity of using security hardware on the art pieces. It was the consensus of the Committee to leave that decision to Lynn and Chris.

Committee Chair Lynn Preston reported that fundraising for Tom Rauschke's mobile was a learning experience for her. She was happy to report that the piece is fully funded. She thanked all those involved in soliciting funds to purchase the beautiful artwork. She reported that the contract with Mr. Rauschke is complete and his project will be installed by September of 2018. Larry Nelson commented that having the donor meet with the artist seemed like it worked well and he believed that donors are more likely to contribute if they have that personal connection. The Committee will discuss having an art reception at a future meeting.

Committee Chair Lynn Preston said that rather than asking Joel Pfeiffer for a more detailed color drawing of his glass crown jewel sculpture, she feels comfortable putting his work on hold given that the Committee is not wholeheartedly behind his proposal. It is much more difficult to sell an idea to a donor if you are not enthusiastic about it. The rest of the Committee agreed that it was a good idea to put this project on hold and revisit it later. The Committee can work with him on the color palette for his design; they could then get a better feel for what it would look like. Interim Director John Klima questioned if the weight of the metal sculpture and glass would be too heavy for the top of the revolving door. Larry Nelson said that once the design and colors are acceptable to the Committee, then possible donors could meet with Mr. Pfeiffer. Lynn Preston said that it appears that the Committee agrees that the Library should have a piece of artwork by Joel Pfeiffer in the collection, though they are not enthusiastic enough about this particular piece.

5. Discussion/action regarding fundraising idea (Julie Stockinger)

Julie Stockinger explained that she participated in the Watertown Main Street Program – Art

on Main. Artists create custom, hand-painted banners, which are hung on the Main Street lampposts. The banners remain up all summer and are then sold at auction, with the proceeds from the banner auction going toward downtown beautification projects. A local printer collaborates with the program to print the brochures and ballots. People can vote for their favorite banner; awards are given to the top vote getters. Julie thought that doing something like this in Waukesha to benefit the Library's public art program might be a good way to raise funds and awareness for the program. Lynn Gaffey said that when the downtown area was looking at public art, they started with critters and then secured the title of Guitartown. They now have 30 plus 10-foot guitars and 100 playable guitars. They were able to raise \$45,000 for art programs in the schools and museum. She also said that the City of Waukesha has been working with a public relations company on rebranding and have already installed banners in many of the downtown districts. Larry suggested that she meet with the City Planner, but Julie indicated that she had already done this. It was the consensus of the Committee that the timing may not be right for this project. Lynn Gaffey said that they still have 1,000 rubber ducks from the duck race that did not happen. Perhaps a smaller sub-committee could work on some fundraising ideas.

6. Discussion/action regarding possibility of acquiring Jean Stamsta art piece

Committee Chair Lynn Preston said that artist Jean Stamsta died in 2013 and that she donated her collection to the Kohler Foundation. Some of these pieces were gifted to Carroll University. She spoke with Peggy Farrell from Carroll University and her impression was that the Library's Public Art Committee turned down an offer to acquire a Stamsta piece of art. Many of her earlier pieces are tubed fiber art. Lynn said that she would contact the Kohler Foundation to see if they are still distributing Ms. Stamsta's art. Her thought was that one of her larger, more colorful pieces could be installed on the large wall across from the public computers. With no one from the Committee objecting, she will contact the Kohler Foundation and investigate the possibility of acquiring one of Jean Stamsta's art pieces.

7. Adjournment

Absent any objections, the meeting adjourned at 4:43 p.m.

J. Quinlan, Recorder