

URBANDALE PUBLIC LIBRARY ART GALLERY COMMITTEE MINUTES

January 11, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: Emma Thompson-McGinnis, Charlotte Saliers, Ted Saliers, Irene Cameron, Larry Kusmaul, Sandy Kusmaul

MEMBERS ABSENT: Julia Dyche, Ann Koopal, Laura Travnicek

STAFF PRESENT: Nicholas Janning, Brianna Ryan, Staci Stanton

CITIZENS PRESENT: Tom Graves

CALL TO ORDER: Nicholas called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Nicholas shared a PowerPoint and passed out packets that included the committee's budget report dating back to July 2021, the updated welcome letter, and the art gallery committee policy with new bylaws.

While reviewing the budget report Nicholas commended Charlotte for the \$1000 funding she had requested and secured for the Art Gallery from the Urbandale Public Art Committee (PAC) at their November meeting.

- Charlotte shared that the \$1000 would have the ability to roll over to the next fiscal year. That policy is different than it used to be when they would have to use it in a year or lose it. Emma and Charlotte both agreed that was a great change because that would allow the committee to save up money to be able to replace the Art Gallery's outdated hanging system.
- Charlotte mentioned that the PAC was interested in bringing back Art Day. The committee discussed the history of that program. Art Day ran 2016 - 2019 and had been held on a Saturday in April from about 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 or 3:00 p.m. There had been plans to host it in 2020 before the pandemic hit and it has been on hold since then. Charlotte and Emma recalled Art Day being a huge undertaking and if the committee were to bring it back, they would require around 14 volunteers and a fair amount of new art supplies. The program had been popular and was held in both the meeting rooms and outside the library to accommodate multiple art stations- including an air brush artist, a sketch artist, and sidewalk chalk. Emma recalled that we had about 400 people attend the last one in 2019. She thought it would be helpful to avoid over-crowding if we required registration and had people sign up for 30 minute increments over the course of the program. The committee agreed that they wouldn't be able to host Art Day this year but would consider the logistics of doing so in the future.

The committee reviewed the updated welcome letter. Emma suggested a change to include urbandaleartgallery@gmail.com in the section regarding where promotional material should be sent. The change was made, and the committee approved the welcome letter.

The committee reviewed the updated policy with the new bylaws. Emma suggested that since we send the policy document to artists that it would make more sense for us to separate the policy and bylaws and

make them two different documents. Emma also suggested a change to the last sentence of the proposal section in the policy to clarify that artist submissions are reviewed once a year in the fall.

- Nicholas agreed to send out the final copies of the updated policy and a separate document with the bylaws for the committee to review in the following weeks and if there were no more changes suggested at that time that the documents would be approved and made public on the library's website.

Nicholas relayed that the PAC had positive feedback from the joint art reception and concert in August 2022. The PAC were hoping to partner with the Art Gallery Committee going forward so the art receptions and the concerts that PAC is raising \$12,000 to put on can coincide. This would require planning the art receptions out 6 months to 1 year in advance.

- The committee agreed this collaboration would be beneficial to the artists as it would increase their exposure. Brianna will email the 2023 artists over the next few weeks to inquire about setting up their receptions now. With the art receptions booked PAC will then be able to align scheduling bands on the same dates if possible.

The committee briefly talked about the art reception held this past Sunday where they had discussed the idea to put a sandwich board out in the library lobby advertising the reception to get more foot traffic. Emma agreed to design the 24x36 poster and send it to Brianna to be printed before the next art reception at the end of February.

Brianna shared that April 6, 2023, is the Art Gallery's 10 year anniversary. The committee agreed that would be a fun bit of history to mention in a newsletter or on social media to engage the public.

Next meeting is Wednesday, April 12 at 6 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Emma Thompson-McGinnis
President

Attest: Brianna Ryan