

URBANDALE PUBLIC LIBRARY ART GALLERY COMMITTEE MINUTES

January 8, 2025

MEMBERS PRESENT: Larry Kusmaul, Sandy Kusmaul, Ivan Martin, Tammy Martin, Charlotte Saliers, Grace Saliers, Ted Saliers, Jeff Suchomel, Cindy Willson

MEMBERS ABSENT: Emma Thomas-McGinnis

STAFF PRESENT: Nicholas Janning, Brianna Ryan, Staci Stanton

CITIZENS PRESENT: None

CALL TO ORDER: Nicholas called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

APPROVE AGENDA: The committee reviewed and approved the January agenda.

APPROVE MINUTES: The committee reviewed and approved the October minutes.

CITIZENS FORUM: None

APPROVE TREASURER'S REPORT: The committee reviewed and approved the report.

1. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Annual Presentation to Public Art Committee (PAC) in Spring
 - i. Nicholas is compiling photos to share at the PAC meeting on either February 18 or March 18. He encouraged the committee to send anything they would like to have included in the presentation to him, and anyone on the committee is welcome to attend the meeting.
- b. Art Day 2025: April 26, 2025
 - i. Charlotte discussed how Art Day has historically been on a Saturday close to Earth Day. Last year, the event was 2 hours, as opposed to the 4 hours it used to be. This shorter time frame made it more manageable but still brought in about the same number of attendees. The PAC formed an Art Day subcommittee that took over the event last year, and Charlotte is part of that subcommittee. Art Gallery committee members are encouraged to participate in Art Day by coming up with easy crafts, helping plan the event, or volunteering on the day of the event. Jeff suggested acrylic paint sticks would be fun for the kids to use, and they are easy to manage cleanup-wise.
 - ii. Staci offered 20 birdhouses that had been donated to the library. It was suggested that they be given out as door prizes on Art Day.
 - iii. Staci had been in contact with an individual who would be interested in doing face painting during the event and was going to discuss the logistics of that with the subcommittee. Charlotte will fill the Art Gallery committee in on when the Art Day subcommittee will be meeting once that is scheduled.
- c. Wire for Artist
 - i. Charlotte purchased plastic-wrapped wire intended for hanging artwork in the gallery. Recently, an artist used wire that was too thin, causing it to slide on our hanging system, which resulted in the artwork not lying flat or level. The

committee discussed acquiring wire cutters, and Jeff offered to get a pair of Wiss wire cutters.

- ii. The committee addressed the need for a new 3-step ladder for art installation, as the existing one is unstable. Nicholas suggested that the library may already possess a reliable 3-step ladder stored in a custodial closet that could be utilized.

2. STAFF REPORT

- a. Budget cuts for city departments & identifying potential savings
 - i. Nicholas shared that every city department will have a 5% reduction in their next fiscal year's budget, with the potential for more cuts over the next few years. As of the January meeting, he did not know if the art gallery's annual budget of \$1,000 from the Public Art Committee will be cut during fiscal year 2025 – 2026. Nicholas presented the annual expenses of the art gallery committee. The committee noted that the subscriptions to newsletter and website domain/ security services were noteworthy annual expenses. The committee asked if it is possible to utilize the library's tools for the art gallery website and newsletter services. Nicholas stated that he believed that the library's current website and newsletter tools would be sufficient for the art gallery's website and newsletter services and that library staff could verify if the art gallery was interested in pursuing this option. The library is in the process of getting a new website, so it would be a good time to integrate the art gallery website and content into the new site. The committee expressed support for using the library's software tools. Charlotte emphasized the need to involve Emma, who manages the art gallery's newsletter and website, before the committee moved forward with this. The committee asked Nicholas to relay the information to Emma.
 - ii. Nicholas asked if anyone had any ideas about how to save money. Charlotte mentioned that even though the art gallery policy states that the library requests a 10% donation of any sales the artist makes during the exhibit, a number of artists haven't made that donation. The committee discussed bringing the sales policy up with the artists during the installation and take-down of their exhibition, and to send a follow-up email after the exhibition.
 - iii. The committee discussed the possibility of organizing an artist vendor fair as a fundraising initiative, drawing inspiration from comparable events at other libraries. One way the Boone LibraryCon makes money is by charging vendors \$60 per table. The Urbandale Library Board has been cautious about permitting sales on library grounds due to potential legal issues in the past. Ivan drafts work contracts and offered to help with navigating that.

Next meeting is Wednesday, April 9, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlotte Saliers

President

Attest: Brianna Ryan