

SANDPIPER ART GALLERY & GIFTS MEETING MINUTES

Date: February 15, 2024

Time: 10:00 am

Meeting called to order by: Judy Wright

IN ATTENDANCE

Judy Wright, Don Carberry, Carole Carberry, Charlie Fudge, Sue Arneson, Patsi Pohle, Dee Dee Barbour, Marge Christensen, Andrea Johnson, Cheri Browne

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes were read from the January meeting were corrected and approved.

TREASURE REPORT

Dues are coming in for the 2024 year. Gallery is doing a bit better than this time last year, but it is still a slow time of year.

REPORTS

Gallery Director – Carole and Patsi

- 1st show is looking great – Reception was a success. Many students and family members attended.
- Gallery will continue to promote involvement with the community. Perhaps hosting another reception that includes Boys and Girls club or the schools.
- Looking at new members for fresh ideas. Encourage new members to become involved in the community inclusion.
- Skateboard project is going to be displaying skateboard decks in March at the Showboat Theater.

Festival Director – Carole Carberry

- Dates are set for the festivals. FLFA July 20 -21 and the Courthouse August 10.
- Currently 10 applicants for FLFA, 6 applicants for the Courthouse.

- Carol has a mockup of the new shared banner. DeeDee will step in with design help and meet with Dennis Duty and Shellie Cordis to facilitate the new banner.
- Montana Art Council –a quarterly newspaper with an online calendar that shows all art events in the state and grants that have been awarded.
- Wendy to inquire how to get the festivals listed in the Montana Art Council next addition.
- Attraction menu has been updated with 2024 festival dates.
- Festival committee is complete with the exception of Member Booth. Karla Martinson will be approached to see if she is interested.
- Spreadsheet with applicants' medium and contact information has been started.

Gift Shop Director

- Denise has resigned from the Gallery effective immediately. She will be replaced by Sue, Wendy, and Judy. They will share the role for the next 2-3 months until a replacement is found and trained.
- A replacement will need to be a current member. Duties require frequent checks of inventory, checking in of new art, placement of art on the shelves and walls. A detail-oriented person with good communication skills is needed.

Membership – Marge Christensen

- Training is going well. New members are excited to be here and have been doing well.
- Only 4 old members may not sign up for 2024.
- Andy and Marge will work together on a new updated 2024 membership list.
- DeeDee will make a sign for the front door to promote the newest show.

Website/Social Media – Dee Dee Barbour

- New brochures look great – we have 1500 so hand them out
- DeeDee will now do the newsletter with Wendy working as her backup.
- Would like to see the gallery freshened up. Feels like the artwork on the walls can appear stale on social media. This will be addressed by the three new gift shop directors.

R & D Committee – Sue Arneson

- Charlie had an incredible day last Friday. He was able to engage four different ways to engage the community with the Gallery. He presented an invitation to speak to the Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club. Also, the Gallery will be featured in a publication that goes out to 3600 people in the area. He also met with the new owners of the Bison Range store that have experience with financial sources and are willing to lend a hand to the Gallery. Way to go Charlie!
- Memorandum of understanding resolution was approved by the City on February 5. There is a meeting of the commissioners on Saturday that Judy and Charlie will attend. Will try to get a photo of Judy with the mayor for the ART4POLSON campaign.
- Painting on the electrical boxes have been approved by MDOT and now the City of Polson. The ART4POLSON campaign press release has been written and is ready to be sent out. Wendy will make contact to put the press release in the Leader, Journal and Char-Koosta News. Deedee will put a blurb on the website.
- The public art projects are on hold until we have the notice of funding. There will be three projects. Electrical boxes x 3, Golf Course building and a mural at Sacajawea Park.

- Steps for the art call have been reviewed. Sue informed that the document “Call for Art” is ready to go, and all steps have been followed and are complete.
- Further discussion to determine where and how the call for art will be disseminated will need to be done before the April meeting when we will learn of the funds availability.
- Golf course building project was tabled until we learn the responsibilities of the city to prep the building.
- Natalie and Charlie are focusing on fundraising. Natalie will attend seminar given by Greater Polson Community Foundation and work on the application process. Application is due April 11 with funds dispersal July 1st. Mary Kathryn and Jeff will help on a limited basis.
- Fundraising – Quick books does have a donation letter already created. Wendy will help Andy get these letters out. They will include a handwritten thank you note from the Gallery. Wendy will make a sample letter. These will be filled out by whoever is working the front desk.
- A motion was made and passed to go ahead with the replacement of the current awning. Sue will check with Mary Kathryn to see if new bids are needed.
- Based on the Financial Projection and low level of Gallery income – a business plan cannot be developed to expand at this time. We project that this may be possible in 1-3 years. The gallery will continue to look for ways to expand our clientele and increase sales. We will continue to bring more awareness to the community to offer involvement in the growth of the Gallery.
- Sue and Charlie will meet with Dick Brattan to update him on this development.
- Scholarship applications are coming in at this point we have possibly 10 interested.
- Next R&D meeting to be held at Sue's on March 13 at 10:00.

President – Judy Wright

- Next workshop will be March 9th - oil painting – possibly flowers.
- Would like to see more members sign up to teach workshops.
- Wendy, Sue, and Judy are looking to restructure committees. Shift to organize committees and possibly to extend the 3-year commitment to a longer time frame.
- New members should be encouraged to attend at least one board meeting in their first year.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting will be held on March 21, 2024, at 10:00

Meeting was adjourned at 1205.

