

Milton Artists Guild

January 18, 2018

Art Center

10 – 11:15

Attending: Gisela Alpert, Melanie Bishop, Donna Blatchly, Bill Boccio, Heidi Chamberlain, Deborah Dolby, Claudette Eaton, Barry Genzlinger, Dot Grazier, Julie Griffis, Cathy LaClair, Christina Lesperance, Richard Lyons, Ray McClure, Dean Moran, Linda Moran, Mark Ozenich, Barbara Parfume, Bonnie Palmer, Michael Purcell, Sharon Radtke, Linda Stech, Claudia Stoeffler, Doris Weeks, Trine Wilson, Ellen Young

Art Center: Gisela thanked all the volunteers who are making the art center a success. Claudette Eaton has the SKU system in place; cash out is easier, our curator Lorraine Manley, and our site manager Trine Wilson. The events committee was recognized, Sharon Radtke and Bonnie Palmer. Annette Hansen stepped down, from that committee, but was recognized for her work in the group. The exhibit committee members, Ellen Young and Claudia Stoeffler were recognized. The two assistants to the curator were recognized, Michael Purcell and Jake Held.

Trine Wilson suggested that the art center have an anniversary party to celebrate our first year. It could be an open house, and we could invite the dignitaries who attended last year, including our benefactor, Ernie Pomerleau.

Financial topics: The four months review was presented. The title 'Statement of Financial Activities (SOA)' will be used to describe the report instead of 'Profit and Loss', which doesn't portray activities of a nonprofit organization.

The total income from September to December was \$37,828.18. The total expenses were \$13,980.85. Our end bank balance back in January 2017, had \$13,896.34, this year's balance is approximately \$44,000. Payments to the artists were approximately \$6500, and sales in December were likely increased due to Ernie's ad in Seven Days.

Board updates: Since the guild has grown so much, the board feels that we needed to incorporate policies regarding online and monthly meeting code of conduct. The resolutions were written with the guidance of MAG's legal team, Paul Frank, & Collins. They will be added to the handbook and included in the welcome packet. The proposal can be added to the bylaws and voted on at the annual meeting in June. A member suggested that there also be code of conduct policies for the art center, as well.

There will be regular board meetings, quarterly, and finance committee meetings, monthly. In February, the board will have a strategic planning meeting to set short and long term goals (next 2- 4 years). For the sake of transparency, the board wanted a member at large to attend the meeting. Sharon Radtke will be in attendance.

Committees: There was a general meeting of committees on Sunday, January 14th. Not all could attend. It was proposed that general meetings for all committees be scheduled on a quarterly basis, to occur on a Sunday afternoons. Committee members were asked about their satisfaction with their current committee duties and if more volunteers were sought.

Katie Paquette is managing social media, doing Facebook and Front Porch Forum updates. Betsy Finstad is managing the website. Betsy is encouraging members who have not yet become active on the website to take advantage of this membership perk. Please contact Betsy at egfinstad@gmail.com for more information. Jake Held offered his assistance to photograph pieces of art for the website. He is

willing to coordinate with artists needing assistance and would do a photo session at the art center. For any who need assistance, please contact Jake at jake@vermontlandscapes.photography.

Sharon said that Social Sundays are working. If it continues into March, we would like additional volunteers to share the duties. It's not a huge time commitment. We have a following now with the free workshops to the community, hot chocolate, and the music. The place has a good vibe. Whether we continue the Sunday Socials will be put onto the February 15th agenda.

Katie Paquette arranged to have Fox 44 interview Julie and Pilar about the upcoming Masquerade Ball. The Vermont Arts Guide wants images; it gives increased visibility to the art center. The WCAX ad provides good coverage, they may do a Valentine's Day ad for us. Through the effects/influence of our publicity, a musician reached out to us, and would be performing on the 28th. John Lackard used to perform with Sam the Sham and the Pharaohs. Donna Blatchly received an email from someone who saw her Made in Vermont segment. The client wants to include a visit to the art center as part of Vermont Mystery Tours, and asked Donna to speak to the approximately 30 participants. Donna suggested that other artists join her in the event, October 17th. We will also be contacting other bus tour companies such as Notch Above Tours.

Valentine's Day Masquerade Ball (February 10th, Eagles Club): The committee, Julie Griffis, Pilar Paulsen, Cathy LaClair, El Towle and Barbara Parfume, is partnering with the Milton Town Rec Department's Winter Festival. Although admission is free (ages 21+), it's still a fundraiser. We will have a raffle table, roses for sale, refreshments with a Valentine's theme, and a cash bar through the Eagles Club. Kyle Stevens will be our disc jockey. We have a signup sheet in the gallery for donations (food and raffle items), and for volunteers to man the food and raffle tables. There is a mask making workshop for adults and children, on February 3rd at the art center. Signups are online on the guild website. There is a Mini-Masquerade Ball for the participants under 21 at the church located near the Eagles Club.

Photography Club: This new group will have their first meeting on Wednesday, January 24th at 5:30. This meeting is open to anyone with an interest in photography.

Gisela encourages others to start special interest sub groups.

MAG Meetups: Cathy LaClair will be hosting art share meetings on the third Wednesdays of the month, beginning in February. The first meeting day is February 21st, with a morning and an evening session to make it accessible to all. The regular MAG meetings have become mostly business meetings, so these MAG Meetups will bring the art itself back into focus.

These open sessions can be used to create art, share new pieces, and ask for critique. More details will be announced as the date is closer.

Promise Grant update: The grant's purpose is to promote the arts for parents and young children. The \$5000 must be used by the end of the year. Part of it has been used for the free family workshops. We have presented a proposal for a family style mural project to paint the dugouts at Bombardier Park. The town wants a professional muralist to design the work, as they had a bad experience in the past. Jon Young, who painted the 'ART' mural on the back wall of the art center, will prepare designs to be presented to the selectboard for approval. If he receives the go ahead, the designs will be prepped on the structures. The thought is a 'color by number' that families can paint. It would take a few months for the sketches to be done and approved by the Milton Selectboard. The painting itself would take

place over the course of a weekend in the summer, and would be advertised. The motion to go ahead passed unanimously.

Cheryl Alwine will teach a workshop, sponsored by the MCYC, for mentors and mentees in February. The participants will enjoy a pizza supper as well as make ocarinas from air dry clay.

Linda Moran inquired if we had any regular programs in place for teenagers. As we have not, she volunteered to start an ad hoc committee for an outreach program, first starting with the Milton students, and then branching out to the neighboring towns. She wants to involve art teachers and students. Barbara Parfume volunteered to be part of this new committee. They will look for corporate sponsors as participation in an art program may help with alcohol and drug abuse prevention. Teens are required to volunteer to receive high school credits. We could use them as a resource for new ideas. She suggested a teen art show in the gallery; art is sometimes shown in the school library, perhaps that art could be here as well.

Outdoor Art: Last year we facilitated the mural project. This year, we are working towards getting a large outdoor sculpture as Mr. Charlebois was enthusiastic about the idea last year. Gisela would put together a binder of representational work of several sculptors. The company would select the artist. The members voiced approval of the idea.

Respectfully submitted by Christina Lesperance