

Milton Artists' Guild Board Meeting

February 9, 2017, 6:00 - 7:30 PM

Milton Library Community Room

Attendance:

Gisela Alpert, Doris Bergeron, Betsy Finstad, Maureen Genzlinger, Lori MacLaughlin, Linda Stech, Gary Walz

Agenda — Art Center Update

New Committees

Since the vote to move forward with the Art Center project at the January 26th meeting of the members, Gisela said a great deal has been accomplished.

Sharon Radtke is chairing the Events Committee. She and Annette Hansen are planning events for the new space.

Doris, chair of the Barnes & Noble Fundraising Committee, gave an update and said this fall's fundraiser will run for five days both in the store and online. Gisela thanked Doris very much for her hard work in setting this up.

Claudette Eaton is in charge of the T-shirt Committee and is looking into the most cost-effective options.

Joy Choquette is researching grant opportunities for funding.

The Planning Committee of Gisela, Janet Dooley, Lorraine Manley, Ray McClure, Sharon Radtke, and Ellen Young, is working on a proposal of how best to creatively and innovatively use the new space.

Janice DeCooman, Cheryl Alwine, Donna Blatchly, and Tina Lesperance have taken on the job of Workshop Organizers, under the guidance of Jane Morgan.

Gisela and Judy Taylor are working on Community Outreach. They want to find ways so that kids with less money will be able to benefit from MAG programs.

Gary Walz, Harjit Dhaliwal, and Ethan Rogati are manning the new IT Department. They are looking into the details of the Square, Internet, and technology for the new space.

Gisela is looking for another member to work with her on the Fundraising Committee.

The MAG is also in need of members to form a Facilities Committee.

In-kind Donations

Janet Dooley donated an iPad Pro for use with the Square.

Ellen Young has loaned the MAG an Epson photo printer for twelve months. If the Art Center continues in a new location after the twelve months, Ellen has said she will donate the printer to the MAG. The MAG would need to pay for the ink, paper, and maintenance. Members who use the printer would pay per each use for these items.

There was the possibility of acquiring a huge copy machine by donation, but the cost of upkeep for such a machine would be prohibitive, so the MAG said thank you, but no thank you.

Gisela had heard from Kym Duchesneau of the Rec. Department that Kym's husband was selling his business. Gisela said she would check with him and see if there might be any computers available for MAG use.

Toner Satellite and Security of Milton donated two surveillance cameras and a router with free installation. There would be no monthly charge for the system. If the MAG wanted more cameras, they would be \$50 each.

Gisela and Adam Alpert will donate the cost of installing the kitchen cabinets, stove, refrigerator, and dishwasher, and associated electrical and plumbing upgrades.

Lorraine Manley found a free 8 foot table from Tina's Home Design. It has two legs on one end and the other end attaches to the wall. It will be installed along with the kitchen items, etc. Might be good for kids to use.

Milton Selectman John Bartlett donated a battery operated paper towel holder for the bathroom. Paper towels can be ordered through Costco or Staples.

Gisela said Costco generally donates between \$25 and \$50 to nonprofits.

Aubuchon donated \$25.

Colleen Bunell offered the use of a tall ladder.

Trine Wilson checked with Fremeau's Jewelers about jewelry cases, since they were going out of business, but they will be opening as a new jewelry store, so nothing was available there. However, Lippa's Jewelers donated a 3 ft. by 4 ft. mounted wall display in cherry that is lighted and will be perfect for MAG jewelry makers. Lippa's also donated a dark green carpet for use in the new space.

Sharon R. was checking into the UVM Warehouse. Gisela said they had tons of tables and chairs, lockers, and locking cabinets at very low cost or possibly free.

Gary suggested checking with Milton Husky business owner, Robert Schad, and his charitable Schad Foundation, for donations.

Bill and Jen Kaigle will donate their time to design and create the lettering for an over-the-door sign for the new space. Gisela showed a photo of what the front of the space would look like with "Milton Artists' Guild" in a calligraphy lettering design possibility. The size of the sign is limited to 24 square feet by the town. The MAG would be able to take the letters with them if the Art Center moved to a new location.

One suggestion was that the Board might invite the members to discuss whether or not they wanted a different name for the new space. Another suggestion was to ask someone who does calligraphy, possibly Mary Ann Duffy Godin, if they could paint slogans and such on the windows.

Mr. Pomerleau will donate \$20,000 to the MAG to cover the construction cost of installing the bathroom. The MAG will pay the contractor directly. Mr. Pomerleau has also offered to pay for any cost overruns with the bathroom construction.

Planning for the Art Center

Gisela said that she didn't have any new information yet on the insurance related to the new space. She hadn't seen the lease yet and was still waiting on the details. She said she had spoken to Mr. Pomerleau this morning and successfully delayed the lease date until April 1st to give the MAG more time to get everything set up. We can start setting up as soon as the construction is done.

She also said that the Planning Committee is still working on their proposal, so they don't know what all of the costs will be yet. As soon as the proposal is finished, it will be presented to the Board for approval. Once everything is approved, the Budget Committee can finalize the MAG budget.

Ideas for a soft vs. grand opening were discussed. Gisela would like to have a soft opening and then later have a spectacular grand opening with lots of publicity, a ribbon cutting ceremony with Mr. Pomerleau, and possibly an invitation for Governor Scott to attend.

The possible need for a volunteer general manager for the new space was discussed, as a MAG member had volunteered for the position. Gisela felt that thinking about the manager position now would be premature. The Planning Committee needed time to complete and present their proposal for the space before considering the management aspect. However, some Board members felt that having an experienced person in a manager position or as an advisor to the Planning Committee would benefit the project and help avoid pitfalls. This suggestion wasn't meant to imply a lack of confidence in the Planning Committee, but was put forth out of concern for the financial viability and stability of this enormous project.

Gisela said that the Planning Committee had purposefully been established without having someone who has a lot of experience because the group doesn't want the new Art Center to be like other art organizations already out there. It's not going to be a co-op, or like A.I.R., or the

B.C.A. The Planning Committee will be more able to come up with something completely unique and creative if it's not influenced by someone who has done it elsewhere.

It was pointed out, though, that gallery/gift stores have to be run in a certain way in terms of business practices, and experience in this area would be greatly beneficial.

Gisela felt that the Board should give the Planning Committee the benefit of the doubt and wait for the proposal before making any managerial decisions as they hadn't yet created a job description for that position. Linda added that if a manager was needed, the position should be put out to all the members so any interested members could apply.

The effects of negativity were discussed. Gisela said she and Linda went to a Community Arts Education Council (CEAC) meeting of leaders in the local art world the previous week and were impressed and inspired by the helpfulness of the people there. They felt this group would be a valuable resource, as like the MAG, one of the group's main goals was to spread appreciation of the arts, and that their insight might be more beneficial than the help they could get from the member who had volunteered for the manager position.

It was said that the member who had volunteered wouldn't have done so if he didn't sincerely want to help the Art Center project succeed. Other Board members agreed and felt that what some Board members viewed as negativity, they viewed as pragmatism.

A Board member asked when the Planning Committee would have their proposal and job descriptions ready for the Board to review. Gisela said the Committee didn't have a firm date yet but that it would be soon.

A policy for how much to pay teachers for workshops would also be needed. The MAG would be responsible for paying the teachers and would need to specify that a minimum of participants would be required for the class to go on. Participants would need to prepay, and if not enough participants signed up, the class would be canceled.

Informational workshops vs. professional "artist" workshops were discussed. Both should be offered. The Milton Recreation Department does something similar with workshops. The MAG could work with the Rec. Dept. and other groups in Milton on setting these up.

Janice D. is keeping track of workshop participation, and checks from participants are being mailed to her.

The Website Committee will be meeting next week. The website is currently under construction to add functionality so that people will be able to register and pay online.

Scheduling for the new Art Center was discussed. A scheduler would be needed to keep a master schedule for the whole space.

Gisela said that, as she learned from the people at the CEAC meeting, the new Art Center would not be fully developed in a year's time. We would need to go slowly and steadily and make progress by quarters, to see what works and what doesn't.

The Board looks forward to seeing the Planning Committee proposal.

Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted by Lori MacLaughlin, Secretary