

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MUSCATINE ART CENTER
April 20, 2023**

Present: Aarzo Baharani, Mark Latta, Sara Fitzer-Huston, Mark Seaman, and Vince Lawson.

Absent: Geri Kent, Brian Walter, and Laurie Johnson.

Staff: Melanie Alexander

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Latta at 5:30 PM.

Visitors: None present.

Minutes: Minutes of the March 16, 2023, Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees were reviewed and discussed. Moved/seconded (Lawson/Baharani) to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Bills for Approval: Bills in the amount of \$15,795.03 were presented, reviewed, and discussed. Moved/seconded (Meloy/Baharani) to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried.

Credit Card for Approval: Bills in the amount of \$123.82 were presented, reviewed, and discussed. Moved/seconded (Fitzer-Huston/Lawson) to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Long-Range Planning:

The Executive Committee (Mark Latta, Brian Walter, Sara Fitzer-Huston, Mark Seaman) along with the Director met with Carol Webb on March 21. The Executive Committee met at 4:30 p.m. on April 20 to discuss next steps. Alexander shared current projects taking place at other Iowa museums and highlighted firms involved with Master Plans, Feasibility Studies, and other planning documents.

Alexander will begin looking for potential firms to help with a Master Plan and provide an update at the May meeting of the Board of Trustees. The 2023 budget for the Muscatine Art Center Support Foundation includes \$50,000 towards planning work.

Finance & Budget:

The Art Center received a \$5,000 grant for performing arts through Quad City Arts ArtsDollars.

Collections:

A William Bunn painting was recently acquired from a local family. An anonymous donor provided the funds to purchase the painting.

There are a few Grant Wood and Marvin Cone pieces of art that are being looked at for cleaning and repair.

Art Casting of Illinois will be creating molds of the original cranes from the Laura Musser McColm Japanese Garden. They will then cast a couple of pairs of cranes for use in the garden when it is rehabilitated.

Building & Grounds:

Midwest Alarm Systems is still working on the upgrades to the security system.

The plumbing is all back to normal. And the men's restroom has been converted to storage. The women's restroom will become a unisex restroom, and flooring is on order.

The Japanese Garden work by Aunt Rhodies has begun again. The rocks have been cleared for use later. Aunt Rhodie's is working on plans for cheek walls for the stairs. Hohmann has been kept informed of the progress. Aunt Rhodie's goal is to have the project completed by the end of July.

Community Engagement:

The Muscatine Schools exhibit of art by 4th and 5th graders will open on April 20th with a reception and performance by Eulenspiegel Puppet Theater on April 23rd. The student exhibition will be on view through May 21st.

Friends of the Muscatine Art Center is bringing back the "For the Love of Art" Tea. The fundraiser is planned for the afternoon of Saturday, May 6th. The group is also working on the Annual Ice Cream Social set for Sunday, June 25th. In November, the group will present the "Heartfelt & Handmade" Ornament Competition along with a Holiday Open House in December.

Personnel:

Two board vacancies will need to be filled for the new fiscal year starting on July 1st. City Hall plans to post the vacancies in the near future with applications due in May followed by a vote of the Nominating Committee likely in June.

Reviews of the Director are due to Laurie Johnson. If you have not emailed your review, please get in touch with Laurie as soon as possible.

Director's Report: In Packet

Unfinished Business:**New Business:**

Next Board meeting – April 20, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

Adjourn:

Moved/seconded by (Seaman/Lawson) to adjourn. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 6:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Fitzer-Huston
Secretary