

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

Present: Mark Latta, Brian Walter, Ann McCarthy, Kathleen Haltmeyer, Vince Lawson, and Aarzoo Baharani

Absent: David Meloy, Geri Kent and Mark Seaman

Staff: Lynn Bartenhagen

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

Visitors: None present.

There was a motion to approve the list of officers as presented for 2023-2024 by Baharani, seconded by Walter. Motion carried. Those officers are: Mark Latta, President; Brian Walter, Vice-President; Mark Seaman, Treasurer; Aarzoo Baharani, Secretary.

Minutes: Minutes of the June 13, 2023, Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees were reviewed and discussed. Moved/seconded Lawson/Haltmeyer) to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Bills for Approval: Bills in the amount of \$77,616.04 were presented, reviewed, and discussed. Moved/seconded (McCarthy/Lawson) to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried.

Credit Card for Approval: There were no credit card bills.

There was a motion to approve the purchase of 5 benches from HON for the Stanley Gallery using monies from a bequest from Barbara Woodstra, for \$7,133.45 by Lawson, seconded by Baharani. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Long-Range Planning:

Alexander released the RFP. The deadline is the end of this month. We have not received anything yet but there is still a couple of weeks left before the deadline.

Finance & Budget:

Alexander submitted two grants to the Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine, one for the Muscatine Art Center and one for the Friends of the Muscatine Art Center. We received money for both grants.

Collections:

Conservation continues on our artwork. We have received the paintings back from the Cincinnati Museum of art. We also continue to receive art back from Audrey Brown that she has been conserving.

Building & Grounds:

Midwest Alarm Systems has repaired or replaced the smoke detectors with issues and the system has been restored without any faults. The new touchstone key pad for the office area has been ordered to replace the current keypad. It is a more intuitive pad than what is currently there.

Th front corner of the retaining wall between the Art Center and the Mortensen home was hit by a car the evening of the 4th of July. The wall was broken and pushed back. O'Brien has contacted the concrete company and is working on getting it repaired.

There is an ongoing problem with the chillers. They need to be reset nearly every morning. O'Brien is aware of the issue and has contacted TRANE to put us on the list to have it fixed.

The Japanese Garden work is slowed due to the dry, hot weather. They will return to do the plantings and finish the hardscape soon. It must all be completed by September 30th.

A bequest from Barbara Woodstra is funding the replacement of 5 benches used in the Stanley Gallery. The current benches date to the Stanley Gallery's 1976 opening. The new benches will be purchased from HON and the purchase has been approved at this evening's meeting.

Community Engagement:

The Annual Ice Cream Social was held on Sunday, June 25th with approximately 600 visitors attending – the largest crowd since COVID. The event raised nearly \$4,000 for Friends of the Muscatine Art Center and their financial support of educational programs at the Muscatine Art Center. On Saturday, July 22nd, a toast to Carol Steinmetz will be held. The celebration will connect to the Iowa Watercolor Society's traveling exhibition and will include the offering of a free class taught by watercolor artist Jo Myers Walker of Iowa City.

July will bring the return of the American Queen to Muscatine. The Muscatine Art Center will welcome visitors from the boat on Sundays, July 16th, July 30th, and September 10th. Program Coordinator Katy Loos will be the lead staff member on those Sunday mornings.

The newsletter for July – August – September was mailed at the end of June. Exhibitions by Jon Fasanelli-Cawelti, Mauricio Lasansky, Cory Christiansen, and John Deason were spotlighted. The reception for Jon Fasanelli-Cawelti's exhibitions is scheduled for Sunday, September 24th with Bill Anson and then the Mad Creek Mudcats performing.

Personnel:

Kathy Haltmeyer and Ann McCarthy attended their first meeting of the Board of Trustees this evening.

All board members have been provided with a draft of the Committee Assignments for 2023-24.

Director's Report: In Packet

Unfinished Business:

New Business:

Next Board meeting – August 17, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

Adjourn:

Moved/seconded by (Lawson/McCarthy) to adjourn. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 6:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Aarzo Baharani
Secretary