

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MUSCATINE ART CENTER
April 9, 2026**

Present: David Meloy, Mark Butterworth, Kathleen Haltmeyer, Vince Lawson, Diana Tank, Mark Post (phone), Mark Seaman (phone).

Absent: Becky Schmertman

Staff: Lynn Bartenhagen

Visitors: Kristen Conlon

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Mark Seaman at 12:00 PM.

Visitor Speak: Kristine Conlon reported the Friends of the Muscatine Art Center were planning and preparing for the Annual Ice Cream Social on June 28, 2026.

Personnel: There was a discussion on the current efforts by the Board of Trustees to communicate with MAC staff and volunteers about personnel changes and potential budget shortages through personal contact and emails. A need for more information sharing was expressed as more events developed.

Lynn Bartenhagen explained process for signing up volunteers to help at MAC. It was suggested that there may be city employees willing to volunteer some of their time.

The meeting with Barb Christensen on April 6 was discussed. Board members were favorably impressed with Barb's thoughts and ideas on how to deal with current problems and moving forward. It was reported the Executive Committee was working with Stephanie Romagnoli to draw up a contract to employ Barb Christensen on a contractual basis.

Finance and Budget: It was moved by Mark Butterworth and seconded by Diana Tank that the Board of Trustees recommends to the Support Foundation and the Friends of the Muscatine Art Center that the Board of Trustees President, Treasurer, and the MAC office coordinator be added as representatives to the funds supporting MAC at the Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

It was moved by Mark Butterworth and seconded by Kathy Haltmeyer that the MAC Executive Board take steps to allow information about the financial status of funds supporting MAC held by the Friends of MAC, Friends of Japanese Garden, and Support Foundation be shared with Muscatine City officials if requested. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Community Engagement: A discussion on the need for good communication with MAC stakeholders was conducted. It was agreed that more detailed information should be provided to stakeholders when more is known about coming budgets and developing events. It was also decided that guidelines, which Mark Seaman volunteered to work on, should be developed so a consistent message is presented by all Board members. Lynn Bartenhagen shared that MAC's constant contact list contained approximately 1,600 names.

New Business: There was discussion about filling empty Board of Trustees seat. It was reported Pat Carver had expressed an interest in serving and was expected to apply and be approved.

Vince Lawson reported MAC Director position was posted on job websites of City of Muscatine, Iowa Museum Association, and Handshake.

Adjourn: Moved/seconded by (Lawson/Haltmeyer) to adjourn. The motion passed and meeting adjourned.

Vince Lawson, Secretary
Muscatine Art Center Board of Trustees