

## **Board of Directors Meeting**

Minutes from the Washington Art Association Board of Trustees on Monday, May 20, 2024

The meeting began at 5:00 PM.

Present were: Barbara von Schreiber, Jay Kaplan, Andrew Craven, Darryl Wright, Joe Austin, Rod Pleasants, Daphne Deeds Anderson, Simon Holt, Woody Campbell, Judy Jackson, Sam Funk, Krystyana Czeiner, Elizabeth Macdonald and Abdo Ballester.

Present via Zoom: Kenise Barnes and Jon Riedeman.

Not attending: Paige Boller, Pamela Szybel, Michele James.

Daphne - reported on the long-term plans including:

1. A film series at the Sunshine Center
2. Auctioning a donated collection of 100 Sondheim posters, some signed, possibly with the Litchfield Auction House
3. An open house for teachers bringing younger teachers to the Association to interest them in teaching at the Association
4. Studio tours in New York City in July and October as a fundraiser

Also noted was the hiring of Tess O'Dwyer as consultant for the capital campaign. The Fall will see a new event, *All That Jazz*, on September 21 at Spring Hill Vineyard with a 6-piece ensemble from Jazz at Lincoln Center and possibly a local jazz group to open.

Simon - Nanny Swoyer has resigned and left 5/18. Alicia will continue with her duties on education and membership. Noted: Carol, the bookkeeper, is at the Association every Wednesday. Noted we have received a \$18,000 grant and will continue to seek grants for our architectural pursuits

Rod - question: Is it too early for a "Save the Date" notice for the 9/21 gala at Spring Hill? Can you be too early for saving the date? No decision made.

Noted that we hope to have a holiday show, perhaps including a grand opening reception, with the products emphasizing "handmade and locally sourced." Also noted, we must begin planning very soon.

Joe - noted fundraising is down, probably reflecting the absence of \$65,000 pandemic funding from the town in 2023.

Woody - GOA has continued to have meetings with various departments after the presentation of the initial concept to the board. These meetings have pointed out that we might be able to add more teaching space by reducing the exhibition galleries. Woody and Judy are hoping to show Lisa the new ceramic studio at Five Points soon. There is an engineering report addressing the septic issues due soon.

Daphne and Simon and Woody met with Dimitri Rimsky who filled them in about the history of the Association and in particular the red brick building whose problems he described as "not solvable."

Barbara reported that the Association has 430 members and in April captured 7 new members and renewed 22 lapsed members. She also proposed that new members be given first choice for classes as many find it difficult

to sign up for classes as they are already filled. This is difficult as students often opt to retake classes. It was noted that we should probably be offering more classes and there is room and time available to do that. Barbara also pressed for renewing the Association aprons that are given to new members and are a very popular welcoming gift. There will be three “pop up” art events...7/13, 8/17 and 10/12. New ideas were suggested for new members and community PR – painting parties, mural painting around town.

Pamela (via Daphne) - praised her long term planning with the next show being a curated “Our Litchfield County Landscape.” Also, great appreciation for Elizabeth’s show, ending 5/26. It was noted that in Pamela’s absence Megan Marden will chair the exhibition committee.

Judy – The Association received over \$31,000 from donations to Give Local. While that was more than the \$21,000 received in 2023, the matching offer explained the increase and there was only one additional donor over the previous year. Noted that of the 18 board members only half were contributors. Next year more publicity should be planned – particularly if there is another matching grant.

The meeting adjourned at 6 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Judy Jackson, Secretary