

Skagit Artists Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
February 7, 2019

The meeting of the Skagit Artists Board of Directors commenced at 3:04 p.m. at the Skagit Valley Co-op Building. Board members in attendance included:

Mechel Bell

Stephen Cheng

Sarah Dalton

Gary Giovane

Sheila Johnson

Ron King

Jennifer McGill

Maria Wickwire and Rick Hoag were also present for part of the meeting.

Anticipating her absence, Monica Jaress sent the Treasurer's report via email in advance.

Because Maria was invited by the Board to talk about the Membership process and Rick about the financials, the agenda was loosely followed to gather information and suggestions during their time at the meeting.

Membership

Maria explained that her role is Communications, so she is a receiver of new member contact information. Gary asked to be added to the distribution of that data to keep his mailchimp list current. She keeps a spreadsheet of members and the areas in which each member wants to volunteer. Ron King sends a welcome email and passes along the SA website password.

A packet of printed material is prepared by Membership Chair, Marie-Claire Dole, for each new member although the distribution is not timely. A discussion followed about sending an e-mail version of the welcome packet versus the printed, hand-delivered folder. Maria will review her copy of the files used to create the packet, in case electronic delivery is chosen.

In general, seeking a new greeter for meetings is necessary, and the group agreed each of us should talk with new members and visitors before a meeting to welcome them. Gary suggested a new member focus be added to the website. He'll provide Ron with wording and ideas to implement.

Budget

Sarah announced that the organization currently has \$12,000 on-hand. Since SA is doing better than it has in recent years, she asked whether the group should spend some of it or save all of it. Suggestions for spending included:

- Advertising – Sarah
- Signage for Dakota events – Mechel
Mechel reported that, with no lighted signage, Dakota Arts is difficult to find. Then once on-property, there is no indication to go to the door on the east side of the building for the SA meeting. Maria suggested asking Dakota Arts if we would be allowed to turn their street sign off after our meetings. Rick suggested the group explore different meeting locations and reminded the Board of the success of the gathering at the Conway Muse.
- Booth for Community Events (to raise the visibility of Skagit Artists) – Stephen
- Pay those who present the program at our Program Meetings – Gary

- A new iPad – Jennifer or Tracfone – Gary
- QuickBooks Online for Monica – Sheila

Rick will look at the financials and develop a budget to propose to the Board. He will also review the organization's insurance coverage to ensure it is appropriate for our activities. He may visit the insurance agent and may ask a Board member to go along.

Sarah suggested that Monica be compensated somehow for all she gives to the organization as treasurer, grant writer, etc. She will talk with Monica to see what she will accept.

Membership Card

Mechel volunteered to look for businesses to offer discounts to our members. Sarah suggested that discounts might be negotiated for an ad in the NWAB Tour brochure. Since March 31 is cut-off for membership renewals, the newly developed card can be mailed out in April. Sarah will provide a sample to Jennifer, who will design it. Stephen will provide Jennifer with a high-res or vector file of the logo. Maria suggested a nametag in place of another card to carry.

Stationery

Jennifer will also design that.

Program Meetings

Mechel announced this schedule for programs:

- Feb. 23 – Jackie DeGavia Hartley
- May 11 – Don Haggerty
- July 17 – Houston Foist and Jody Thompson of Hadrian
- Nov. 23 – ?

She suggested having company reps at program meetings to demo but scheduling was difficult. There was discussion about a microphone and other equipment availability at Padilla Bay. It was mentioned that Padilla Bay promotes multi-use products, and they provide dishes and a dishwasher. Stephen suggested we take coffee, filters, and tea for our own use. It was agreed that there be no potlucks done during program meetings, only snacks to share. There will be no 'Art to Share' at these meetings, and no minutes will be taken.

Creative Planning Meetings

Mechel said she wanted these meetings to be collaborative and interactive. Gary will reach out to some Swinomish artists to see if they would like to co-sponsor or participate in a show or program meeting with Skagit Artists. The tribe was a generous sponsor of NWAB last year. Sheila told the group of the newspapers, calendars, and social media calendars that are notified of SA events and announcements to increase our outreach and attendance.

March 7

Currently a BoD meeting and a Creative Planning Meeting are scheduled for that date, so it was decided to reschedule the creative one on March 21, if a location can be found for that date. Jennifer will check with Skagit River Brewery about using their upstairs space. The agenda will be:

- Membership
- Art Bash
- Budget

- NWAB Studio Tour
- Fall Show
- Chairpersons
- 'Art to Share'
- Interactive art exercise

Update: It is confirmed that the meeting will be at Skagit River Brewery on March 21st at 6:30 p.m.

Art Bash

Jennifer has been working the logistical details out with the Carnation Building. She will be sending another email before the Feb. 14 deadline addressing questions about the time commitment required of each artist to work the sales desk, to define the space available to each 2D and 3D participant, and to clarify the 25% commission held by the organization after each sale. SA pays the credit card transaction fees and withholds sales tax for each purchase.

A meeting of Art Bash participants will be held before the Creative Planning Meeting on March 21. Next Wednesday, some Board members will go to the SA storage area to assess items, besides grids, that can be used at the show's new location.

New Ideas

It was suggested SA have a booth at Mount Vernon Downtown Association functions, that some meetings be held in North Skagit County occasionally for outreach to artists there and in Whatcom County, and that the Front Gallery be approached about allowing SA to use their space during festivals and for pre-show receptions.

The meeting adjourned at 5:31, and an icy drive home was had by all.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheila Johnson, secretary