

Skagit Artists Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
June 6, 2019

President Sarah Dalton commenced the meeting of the Skagit Artists Board of Directors at 2:03 p.m. at the Skagit Valley Co-op Building. Board members in attendance included Mechel Bell, Stephen Cheng, Sarah Dalton, Gary Giovane, and Sheila Johnson; plus, Monica Jaress attended to discuss financials. The meeting's agenda from Sarah's email was:

- NW Art Beat Update – Sarah
- Arts Alive Update – Sheila
- Art Supplies for Kids – Gary
- Disposition of SA's Library – Sharon Mecca
- Store Discounts for SA Members – need info on website with store locations and items to be discounted
- Camano Arts Guild Booth -Mechel
- Program Update -Mechel
- Fall Fund Raiser – Mechel
- Agenda for Creative Planning Meeting

NW Art Beat

There is an address error in the NWAB brochure. Stephen directed how to print/cut labels to cover over the error. Sarah will email the owner of the property listed in error, and perhaps a sign could be posted there to direct visitors to the correct studio address. The website will be changed.

The estimate for banners was \$200 each. Melissa reported that only one jurisdiction would allow a banner on any city property for a function that was not a city event, and that was Mount Vernon. Sarah doesn't want to pursue it, so the purchase of banners is tabled.

Don Wesley is doing press releases, and Sarah will check the funding acknowledgements. Liz is getting advertising to the papers. Brochures were distributed in the 'Sips' swag bags.

Sarah will be working on a procedure to capture data for the lodging tax reporting. Survey Monkey may not work because of the sign-in process.

Art's Alive

Sheila distributed the list of invitational artists, the theme, and dates of the 2019 Art's Alive. She had met with Sylvia Strong about some challenges of the show at the Garden Club. Sylvia extended the offer of listing the SA Juried Show on the AA website as either, a local attraction (e.g., the museums), or have the juried pieces displayed in an online show gallery like the AA Invitational Show work and Open Show pieces will be displayed. Opening the SA show before the Maple Hall show was suggested to increase foot traffic in the daylight. Other possible venues within La Conner were discussed, such as the Tillinghast Seed shops on Morris.

Several artists have agreed to help in various areas of show management, so Sarah will again ask the membership's interest and seek a chair at the next Creative Planning Meeting. A Call for Volunteers will also be sent to the entire membership if a chair does not come forward at the Creative Planning Meeting.

Art Supplies for Kids

Gary discussed his proposal for the Art Supplies for Kids project, and it was enthusiastically received. Rather than purchasing/collecting/storing/distributing actual art supplies:

- Money would be ear-marked for teachers to be reimbursed for money spent on art supplies for their students or to pay for art instruction (visiting artist)
- Teachers could be from public or private schools and from pre-schools through high schools and used the money for classroom instruction or materials
- Teachers awarded money could reapply for additional funds later during the school year
- Teachers apply at the SA Website telling their name, school, grade-level, mailing & email address
 - Teachers describe what the funds are/were used for and when it was (or will be) used
 - Teachers tell the amount requested and submit receipts (if over X amount of dollars)
 - A committee of at least 3 SA members would decide who should be awarded the money—based on purpose, need, and amount
 - The full or partial amount requested could be awarded
 - Money would be awarded until the fund has been zeroed-out. Any money not used will be carried over to the next year's program

He said MoNA's Lauren Carroll-Bolger sees this program as a perfect supplement to their ArtBox program and would provide a link on their teacher outreach page to the Art Supplies for Kids sign-up page on the SA website. MoNA will host a workshop for teachers in August and could distribute SA flyers. Lauren suggested contacting the Kiwanis and Rotary Clubs for donations. Sarah said that her sister, who is active in Rotary, may be able to help. Mechel suggested a link on Dick's website.

There was some discussion as to whether the program should try to address classrooms and after-school programs, and Gary said classrooms would likely have a greater benefit. The award will be limited to Skagit county teachers. Monica indicated she would be able to cut checks and mail them to individual teachers if she has all the information. It would be beneficial if photos of completed projects/artwork were submitted to Skagit Artists. The proposal will be presented to the membership at the next Creative Planning Meeting.

Skagit Artists Library

Sharon Mecca is storing books and library materials of which she needs the organization to take possession. Stephen will pick them up from Sharon, and they will be available to members at the upcoming Creative Planning Meeting. Any books that are left will be donated.

Membership Discounts

Most discounts will be available from July 2019 – June 2020. Five businesses have signed contracts to offer discounts on certain items. The membership card and discounts will be explained at the Creative Planning Meeting. Discounts will also be listed on the SA website, under the Info tab ("Benefits of Membership" placed above "Join Us or Renew"). Mechel will pass this info on to Ron.

Stanwood-Camano Arts Guild

Stanwood-Camano Arts Guild offered Skagit Artists booth space in their August 10 – 11 'Art by the Bay' show for \$100. Although the booths are not juried, the Guild wants to be assured that all that is offered for sale is handcrafted. Mechel will submit samples with the paperwork. Since the booth space is 10' x 10' (a pop-up will be supplied by Carol Ann Anderson or Beth Franklin), Sarah suggested each artist be

restricted to 4 sq. ft display space, based on space available. Robert DeFreest and Mechel will do the booth set-up. Houston Foist will assign his new intern to assist. Since it is a 16 hr. event, each exhibiting artist will be required to work 1 – 2 hours in the booth. Those who do not show up to cover their shift will have their work removed. Gary suggested a commission on sales of 15% be retained by Skagit Artists, and after the 3% credit card fee, Sarah proposed the remaining commission would supplement the Art Supplies for Kids program. Those interested in participating should see Mechel at the Creative Planning Meeting.

Program Meetings

Jody Thompson and Houston Foist will present the August Program Meeting content. Peter Whited/Milo White is scheduled for November. Mechel wants to be responsible for setting the Program Meeting dates in 2020. Before the last Program Meeting, she distributed flyers to every city. She wants all members to bring food.

Fall Fundraiser Show

The proposal has changed, and Mechel doesn't agree with it. The scope and cost of the fundraiser keeps increasing. The Board agreed not to pursue the Eaglemont show. It was suggested that a fundraiser, such as an auction or wine and chocolate event be added to Art's Alive/SA Fall Juried Show (if held). Side note: Mechel wants to know how to use CaFÉ, as jurors want differing information. Perhaps a training session could be developed.

Creative Planning Meeting

Mechel will have door prizes and will be doing a volunteer sign-up. Artists are invited to bring art for 'Show and Tell'. For the creative component, Stephen suggested we utilize Maria Wickwire's creative questions in small groups again. 'Featured Artists' will be drawn. Mechel suggested voting for 'Featured Artist', like Whatcom Art Guild does. Sarah explained that SA tried that but found that random drawings were better received. Mechel found food service items in the storage area and will bring those.

Financials

Monica reported that Art Bash was profitable. There is approximately \$21,000 in the bank, and the NWAB brochures have been paid for.

La Conner Post Office Box

SA maintains a La Conner address via a post office box, and Monica gave Gary the key to P. O. Box 1150.

Basic Question

Gary asked, "What do members want?" Do they want an organization that focuses on social gatherings for artists? Do they want outlets to sell their work? Do they want educational opportunities? Sarah suggested a Survey Monkey be done to get member input to this fundamental question.

The meeting adjourned at 4:20.