

ART WORK SUB-COMMITTEE
McHenry County Administration Building
667 Ware Road
Woodstock IL 60098

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 16, 2007

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chairman Hill at 8:30 a.m. The following members were present: Tina Hill, Chairman; Pete Merkel and Randy Donley. Virginia Peschke and John Jung Jr. were absent. Also in attendance: Sue Stelford and Lily Andrea, Art Coordinators; Ralph Sarbaugh, Associate County Administrator-Finance; and interested public.

Tina Hill, Chairman
Randy Donley John Jung, Jr.
Pete Merkel Virginia Peschke

MINUTES

The minutes of the November 9, 2006 meeting was reviewed. Mr. Merkel made a motion, seconded by Mr. Donley to recommend approval of the committee minutes as presented. The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a voice vote.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

OLD BUSINESS

Art Donations: Ms. Stelford introduced Ms. Martha Leisten, an area artist who has donated the most recent piece of artwork to the County. Ms. Leisten stated that her piece is named "Attitude" and is thrilled to be a chosen artist for display at the county. Committee members had a picture taken with the artist and the piece presented for donation .and presented her with a "Certificate of Appreciation."

Ms. Stelford provided a list of the recent winners of the employee art show. Ms. Sinderson, Ms. Weber and Ms. Gordon were introduced to the committee members. Ms. Sylvester could not attend today's meeting but was thrill with her award. Ms. Stelford noted that this is a very popular show for the employee. Mr. Bob Rucker was introduced to the committee members as the winner of the people choice. He had a series of pictures from the 1950 that showed his own house on fire with the rescue of his family members by the fire department. Mr. Rucker stated he was overwhelmed by the response of the employees regarding these pictures.

Mr. Sarbaugh provided an update regarding remaining funds available to the Artwork Sub Committee. It was noted that at the end of FY2006, there was \$16,274.06 available for use. The funding for the sub-committee comes from the county vending machines. The proceeds are divided between the employee Christmas luncheon and the courthouse décor fund. Mr. Sarbaugh noted that this account generates approximately \$3,446.86 per year. With the cafeteria being closed in the Administration Building, it is hurting the vending machines sales. Committee members questioned what could be done to general additional funding for the committee. It was stated that it may be possible to place additional machines in the various county facilities. Committee members also noted that these other facilities are interested in obtaining artwork for their buildings and therefore should be open to placement of vending machines in their facilities.

Committee members reviewed the project summary for the Artwork Sub-Committee. Ms. Stelford noted that because of the disruption caused by some of the events, some of the programs have been eliminated. The Mural Arts Program is ongoing and will be located in the courthouse. This will be a large piece approximately 24' X 6'. The work is being completed at MCC. Ms. Stelford noted that this piece is a movable art piece. Future projects discussed included possible outside sculptures, future special projects, a Cover design project for the Auditor and works for Valley Hi. Committee members noted concern that funds would eventually run out and they questioned the need to find other fund raising projects for the committee. Suggestions included the creation of a McHenry County Arts Council. Chairman Hill stated that one of the previous objectives of the committee was to not use voter money for the purchase of artwork. It was suggested that the art coordinators check with the Aurora Arts Council to see how they run their program. It was also suggested that the EDC and Convention and Visitors Bureau be contacted as the art program would be an economic benefit to these groups. It was noted that if we spearhead an arts council we would need County Board approval. Committee members questioned if the committee would be able to obtain grants without it being a 501c3 corporation. Committee members noted the need to update the long term goals of the committee and stated the county should take a leading roll in any possible joint art projects.

Ms. Stelford stated they were previously known as the art coordinators but because another person has been brought on board are now referred to as curators.

An inventory of the current artwork was provided to committee members. This information is forwarded to the Auditor and Risk Management for inventory and insurance purposes.

It was suggested that the various works of art collected at the county be used as screen savers on the employee's computers. It was noted that the IT department would need to be talked to regarding this idea. Other ideas included a newsletter and webpage.

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Ms. Stelford noted that she has been receiving emails regarding requests to donate to the County for future exhibits.

Ms. Stelford stated that she and Lilly spent a day hanging 130 pieces of artwork in the Valley Hi facility. She noted this was a huge project that was completed with the help from staff. She noted that some of the pieces are in need of replacement. She also noted that some of the pieces were very dirty and are in need of a good cleaning that could become very involved and expensive.

Press releases regarding the donations to the County are sent to seven (7) area newspapers. Committee members thanked the curators for their hard work at Valley Hi and on the employee art show. IT was noted that Nancy Fike from the Historical Society has contacted the curators regarding a possible joint show. Chairman Hill requested that this be added to the agenda for the next committee meeting. Committee members questioned whether additional discussion has taken place regarding the placement of the County Seal and Flags near the guard station in the Administration Building. Committee members noted the need to continue to discuss ways to raise funds and to focus on the mission statement of the Art committee.

NEW BUSINESS

2007 Meeting dates: Committee members discussed meeting dates of the committee. It was suggested that the committee continue to meet on the third Friday of the month at 8:30a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Noting no further business, the Committee adjourned 9:55 a.m. on a motion by Mr. Merkel, seconded by Mr. Donley.

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