

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

MINUTES OF AUGUST 17, 2007

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chairman Hill at 8:30 a.m. The following members were present: Tina Hill, Chairman; Sue Draffkorn; Peter Merkel and Virginia Peschke. Randy Donley and Sandra Salgado were absent. Also in attendance: Sue Stelford and Lily Andrea, Art Coordinators.

Tina Hill, Chairman
Randy Donley Sue Draffkorn
Pete Merkel Virginia Peschke
Sandra Salgado

MINUTES

The minutes of the June 15, 2007 meeting was reviewed. Ms. Draffkorn made a motion, seconded by Mr. Merkel 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

NEW BUSINESS

County Logo: Chairman Hill informed committee members that she spoke about the possibility of having the County Logo changed. Their feelings were mixed because of the costs involved by changing the logo. Chairman Hill stated that the departments would use all of their current stock, with the current logo, before changing to a new logo. The logo would be the "branding" of the County. It would designate us as McHenry County. The current logo is the State seal, with McHenry County added to it. Chairman Hill stated that it has been suggested that the County Flag design be used as the seal. Committee members stated that would be okay, but, they would like to see the size of the "corn" smaller, or different than is depicted on the flag. It has been suggested that a contest be run with the best ten being decided on by the County Board. The ten finalists would be decided by the Artwork Sub-Committee. Chairman Hill questioned whether a resolution should be passed in Management Services Committee requesting the seal be changed. The resolution would need County Board approval. It was decided that a Resolution be drafted for consideration of the Management Services Committee, for final approval by the County Board. There would then be a clear direction of the County Board with a decision whether they really want to change the seal.

Valley Hi Mural: The committee has been approached with a request to commission a mural painted for the residents of Valley Hi. The cost would be approximately \$1,500. There is available funding in the acquisition account to pay for this. The Valley Hi Foundation previously denied this request and suggested the request be forwarded to the Artwork Sub Committee for approval. The formal request came from the former Director of Nursing. There is an area in the nursing home, by the elevators, where residents seem to gather that would be an ideal location for a mural. It was suggested that a fundraiser be held to help pay for this mural, from County Board members as well as others. Ms. Stelford noted that the artwork currently located in the Valley Hi Nursing Home has not been added to the inventory list as most are copies of prints, with some being in very poor condition. Committee members questioned if the artwork should be cleaned on a regular basis. Ms. Stelford stated, besides an occasional dusting, the artwork should not be touched. Even with dusting, no chemicals should be used for the dusting. After a lengthy discussion, Ms. Peschke made a motion, seconded by Ms. Draffkorn to use \$1,500 from the Artwork Sub Committee acquisition fund to contract for a mural for Valley Hi Nursing Home. The motion carried with all members present voting aye. Committee members questioned whether the mural would be painted on the wall or a moveable piece like the mural in the Government Center. Committee members agreed that the mural should be a moveable piece. This would allow for the pieced to be moved if needed and would allow the artists to complete the mural offsite without having the residents put up with paint smells and materials clogging their hallways.

Ms. Stelford reminded committee members of a project that has been talked about by the committee members since the inception of the Artwork Sub-Committee. The previous committee wanted to have a project completed in the courtyard of the Government Center. Mr. Klasen had wanted some sort of fountain installed, creating a quiet peaceful area to enjoy. The Klasen memorial bench could then be placed in this area as well. Ms. Stelford noted she would like to partner with MCC on this project to have their horticulture department design the area. Donations could then be solicited from area businesses for trees and bushes. Ms. Stelford stated if the area is designed correctly there would be minimal maintenance. Committee members stated they would like to see some type of sculpture in the area. They would like to see a large piece that creates a "wow" effect in hopes of creating appreciation and funding for the committee. Committee members noted that some of the county board members have not viewed the large mural that was placed in the Government Center and the committee needs to find a way to gain the support of the County Board. Committee members suggested that the County Board meet at the Government Center, prior to their meeting, to view both the mural to see what poor condition the Courtyard at the Government Center is. It was suggested that the County use a percentage of their building budget for artwork for new facilities. The State of Illinois currently budgets 1 ½% of building costs to be used for artwork. It was noted that landscaping is also a form of art and we need to show the potential for this committee.

Ms. Lily provided committee members information on the newly created webpage for the Artwork sub committee. The webpage acknowledges the artists who have provided artwork to McHenry County as well as past and upcoming projects of the Committee. The link is tied into the County webpage. It was suggested that additional information be provided on the webpage showing where funding has come from for this project. Committee members stated Ms. Lily could move forward with the webpage.

Ms. Stelford informed committee members that they are working on a presentation for the County Board regarding the progress of the Artwork Sub-committee. She noted that if additional funding is not found for the committee, they will be out of funds by the middle of 2008. The Artwork sub-committee started with the idea to purchase artwork for the walls of the building. The County now has over \$80,000 of artwork with the majority of the work being donated. Ms. Stelford stated she would like to show the County Board the non-existence of artwork in the Courthouse and to show the difference between the Courthouse and the Administration building. It was noted that all of the projects that have been worked on by the committee for the past three years needs to be highlighted as well as future work of the committee, which will include the mural at Valley Hi, the courtyard project, seal design project and the quilt barn project. Ms. Stelford stated that the quilt barn project is very popular with the Agritourism and farm bureau groups. Committee members suggested that these groups should be involved with the Artwork sub-committee as they suggested the barn quilt project to begin with. Committee members agreed that the committee needs the support of the county board in order to move forward with future projects. Tourists are drawn to a community to view its arts and the County needs to offer this component to get increased tourism dollars. The board needs to see that art is a benefit to the county. It was noted that a foundation is needed in order to accept donations and to apply for grants. Ms. Stelford noted she had a hard time getting acceptance for grant funding because of the lack of future guaranteed funds. It was also stated that McHenry County does not have any large memorials to draw people to the county. Ms. Stelford questioned committee members about what information should be provided in the presentation. Committee members noted the presentation should not be longer than 15 minutes, and should build on the successes of the committee. Committee members stated that we, as a county, need to take a lead role with art for the area. The cities and municipalities are moving ahead with arts for their communities, and leaving the County behind. It was also noted that we need to access the other art groups as we are all competing for the same funding. Ms. Peschke stated that in the past there was a fundraiser held in the government center, to bring awareness of the arts. She stated that this was a successful project at the time. Committee members requested she put a program together and bring it back to the committee for consideration. Ms. Stelford presented options for the committee for consideration and questioned if all of the options should be presented to the County Board as part of her presentation. It was noted they would like to take all six options to the County Board. Awareness of the projects needs to be pointed out with the presentation building on the successes of the committee. The presentation must show what the committee needs in order to move forward. As many funding options as possible should be included as well as well as the question whether the committee should be disbanded. Since the committee overlaps other agencies in the community we need to access their groups as well. It was suggested that a presentation be put together, for review by the committee at the September committee meeting. The presentation would then be provided to Administration to forward to the county board thereafter. Committee members thanked Ms. Stelford and Ms. Lily for their hard work on the artwork sub-committee.

ADJOURNMENT

Noting no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m. on a motion by Ms. Draffkorn, seconded by Ms. Peschke, with all members present voting aye on a voice vote.

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