

Mint Hill Arts Executive Committee Meeting edited for approval

**Attendees:** Romie Mizell, Cindy Angelelli, Marta Brown, Sandra Smith, Martha Faires, Thea Barbato, (Judy Mizell for the early part of the meeting)

**The Mint Hill Arts Executive Committee** met on July 7, 2016, at 10:00 am.

Romie called the meeting to order.

Next month's meeting is scheduled for Aug 18, 2016.

Last month's minutes were approved.

We began the meeting by discussing newer agenda items.

Martha asked if it would be appropriate to send out a constant contact email to see if MHA members are interested in being on a list of artists who enjoy *plein air painting*. Because she has an irregular schedule, she would like to have email addresses of people who would enjoy going out to paint as we have time, not at a regularly scheduled time. She would send notices directly to interested artists. The committee agreed that that would be a good way to contact and facilitate such a group.

Martha also asked about who should respond on our **Facebook account** when viewers ask questions concerning MHA activities. One viewer wanted to know if she could bring artwork to submit to the gallery at any other time besides the regular gallery intake hours. The official answer is "no" unless she has made special arrangements with those in charge of intake. She might first consider getting a friend to bring her completed forms and properly-wired work at the time of intake. If no one is available, she should contact Sandra Smith ([magnolia@carolina.rr.com](mailto:magnolia@carolina.rr.com)) or Mary Beth Thomas ([thomasmb@carolina.rr.com](mailto:thomasmb@carolina.rr.com)). Romie will ask Gillian to ensure Facebook questions are answered.

**Judy Mizell** attended the meeting to present an idea to get the town of Mint Hill more involved with MHA. She suggested we have a **Town Hall exhibit in October based on the theme of "Mint Hill, Past and Present"** or "Capturing Mint Hill" with art work of two types: 1) Studio work of Mint Hill scenery 2) *Plein air* work from artists who spend 2 days doing a Paint Out in the Mint Hill area.

The work could be hung on the two floors of exhibit space in Town Hall -for November - January.

Romie talked to Sandy (Chamber of Commerce) and she was enthused about the idea. We also hope to get area *plein air* painters (such as the Plein Air Buds) involved.

We discussed ways to get the community involved, the logistics of space, and regulations for entries. We need to publicize and get the Chamber and the Historical society involved.

Judy also said that each year we should try to come up with new approaches to attract community participation. Cindy said we could perhaps get grant money for such a community-related event.

Judy and Martha will work on laying out the basic ideas and then get interested people to be involved. We need to set a time for the paint out--2 days, preferably Friday and Saturday. Mary Beth suggested a Saturday Sampler of *plein air* painting before the event to get people prepared. She will begin publicizing when we are certain of dates and some details.

**Cindy** gave an update on **grants and the Arts and Science Council** procedures. She noted the following:

- She must report 4 times a year to ASC and track our exhibitors, participants, patrons, and volunteers.

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- ASC will give us grant money for 2 months up front and then once a month after that.
- She has been sending *thank you's* to our supporters.
- ASC is doing professional development training and they would like someone from MHA to come. Cindy already has had the training and wonders if anyone else is interested.
- Cindy took a promotional video to the Chamber meeting and it was well-received.
- Other items of interest: a) Tina did a presentation on Bain. 2) The library has business services that include spot wifi for \$14 for an event. 3) The Lions Club rents tents which they will set up.

We then discussed **Mint Hill Madness** and why it did not seem profitable for MHA. Sandra said Tina's brother-in-law was going to make recommendations for improving it.

**Marta** said **Sunday Afternoon in the Park is** Aug. 28, from 12-6 pm It is supposed to feature Arts and Crafts, but Cindy thinks it had more of a flea-market atmosphere last year.

Marta said we need someone to head up MHA involvement in the event, and she asked Mila to staff the table. Romie will provide a tent. Marta will be sure there are MHA flyers and activity sheets available. Applications to participate are online.

We then discussed the need for participants and noted that a commission fee has recently been waived if people sell from the tent.

Because he could not attend the meeting, **Lee** sent the **treasurer's report** to Romie. He said cash-flow timing is an important issue. If we know ahead what and when we are paid, we can deal with cash flow issues We approved the budget.

**Mary Beth** was asked about the proposed column for **Mint Hill Times, An Artist View**. She says although there are 2 columns ready to be used, she has not heard back from the paper. Cindy had a bad experience with the column. It needed heavy editing and was not well done.

Romie will get in touch with David Bradley at Mint Hill Times to try to find out what is going on and will let Mary Beth know.

**Cindy** is concerned about the **posting of our gallery** hours on our **website**. Gallery hours and contact info should be on the home page but they are not showing up on everyone's browser.

We feel we need a new web design to show more pictures and make information clearer.

**Thea** reported that **gallery** ribbons are ordered, She has not contacted judges yet, but has a list and is open to suggestions. Hutch and Romie are working on getting commitments for prizes.

**Cindy** reminded us that Susan is on the Executive Board as **communication director** but she will eventually go off of that committee. We will need a replacement.

**Mary Beth** opened a discussion on some **gift shop issues**.

We discussed several current problems: items left in the shop even when artists haven't renewed their membership, the problem of checking on who is or is not paying the entry fee, the lack of sales, the need for a continuing supply of quality gifts, better ways to attract customers.

To help resolve some of these issues we made the following policy changes:

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- Move the gift shop to the front of the gallery and put a gift shop sign on the window.
- Do away with the monthly entry fee.
- Allow only current members to have items in the gift shop.
- Have a clear statement about the removal of items that do not meet requirements.
- Ask Bill Edelen to add a reminder on renewal notices for artists to remove items from the gift shop or gallery if they are not going to renew their membership. (Allow 60 days to remove items.)
- Continue the 20% commission fee.

We then discussed whether it was equitable to allow someone to sell their work outside the gallery without paying a commission fee. We determined that it would be more equitable to require a fee.

The gift shop changes will take effect at the July 29 intake. Gallery volunteers will be informed and asked to help make the changes to the arrangement of space.

We discussed upcoming shows and how to get interested groups for the themes.

Romie reminded us he will be out of town part of this month.

**Agenda items for next month:**

- Ask Susan to give clarity to using the internal calendar.
- Review the sizes and number of entries for judged shows.

We adjourned at 1:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Faires,  
Secretary, MHA

