

MHA EC Meeting 3- 23–17, 2:00 pm

Attendees:

Romie Mizell, Thea Barbato, Mary Beth Thomas, Cindy Angelelli, Martha Faires, Marta Brown, Judy Mizell

The Mint Hill Arts Executive Committee met on **March 23, 2017.**

Romie called the meeting to order at 2:09 p.m.

Next month's meeting is scheduled for April, 20 at 2:00 p.m.

We approved the 2-16- 17 minutes as amended.

■ **Judy Mizell** asked if the gallery committee would change the order of monthly event themes so that the *plein air* paintings from the October "**Capturing Mint Hill**" event could be entered in the November show using the "Celebrate North Carolina" theme. The EC agreed.

Since they have paid to enter the paint-out event, *Plein air* artists will not be required to pay an entry fee to hang in the November show.

■ Judy and Cindy opened a discussion of our **offsite exhibit strategy**. Cindy told us about 3 requests for off site exhibits. She said we need a standard response for such requests.

We considered reasons for an offsite gallery: to build positive responses to MHA, to increase art sales, to promote local arts, to increase class attendance.

To effectively manage offsite displays, we agreed on these points:

- We can and should put brochures at offsite galleries to promote MHA.
- We should consider the constraints of available art and volunteer help in managing sites.
- MHA should maintain control of the offsite shows and not delegate it to other artists or groups without MHA administration.
- We could do some annual or bi-annual offsite shows.

Judy reminded us of some of the difficulties of managing the **Town Hall Exhibit** but we want to continue the exhibit because of the generous involvement of the Town in MHA affairs. Town Hall made the special effort of preparing the gallery space for us so we will work on more effective ways to manage the intake.

We considered the following points:

- the 3-month commitment for artists
- the difficulty of intake/pick up if there are more than 3 or 4 artists hanging in one show
- the need to choose artists who have a significant number of available works (~30 to 40 works of art)
- the difficulty of combining Town Hall intake with monthly MHA gallery intake
- the promotion of more types of art or themes such as photography or MHA teachers & their students
- the need for more people to help with hanging the show

- the need to continue with advertisement
- the location of the hall space in the Town Hall building (We will pursue putting a painting on an easel in a more prominent place in Town Hall with a sign promoting the gallery in the back halls.)

■ Romie was happy to share that **Dr. Robinson** has doubled the number of awards for the **student show** and he has requested that the winning pieces hang in his office for a month after the show. Mary Beth agreed to talk with teachers about this opportunity for students.

■ **Cindy** reported on her efforts regarding our **abuse prevention program**. She drafted a proposal and sent it to Marta for review. She brought the proposed draft and discussed some of the points with the EC.

- All teachers (or anyone working with youth) will be trained in abuse prevention.
- All teachers will be required to submit to a background check.
- Teachers sign a form agreeing to the check.
- MHA may require parents to come to the classroom to pick up children after class.
- Cindy will revise the abuse prevention document and we will review it at the next meeting.

Comment [1]:

■ Cindy submitted the information concerning **operations grants for ASC** and identified the actions we are taking per their suggestions/requirements.

ASC encourages every member of the board donates to MHA. We decided that each board member would donate \$25 at our next monthly meeting.

Comment [2]:

■ Mary Beth **debriefed us on the Student Show**. (see handout below)*

- She suggested we try to supplement the mat board that Romie and Judy have been giving to high schools for the show by asking art/craft stores to donate slightly damaged board. Romie says he may be able to provide information about a company in Pineville that could donate mat board.
- We will increase the number of award categories because of Dr. Robinson's generosity.
- We will decrease the number of entries to one per student.
- We will invite a parent and a high school teacher to be a part of the committee.
- We will discuss the policies and procedures at our next meeting. (note: draft of policies and procedures was sent to EC by email)

■ Mary Beth said that she and Sandra had their first **mini-mixer meeting** and it went well. Judy and Romie will host the next new member group. [note: Martha's mixer group will meet again at the end of this month.]

■ Romie reminded us that **Discover Mint Hill** is on May 6. The cost is \$35 for a booth for half a day. We would like to have an artist demo and someone to do face-painting. Marta will find a face-painter. Cindy needs participation information for ASC records.

■ Mary Beth suggests we schedule a **gallery clean up** between this months' take down and set up of for the next show.

- Romie will ask Alan to take charge of needed supplies and work.
- Romie says Christie Kikert offered to paint the pedestals at her cabinet shop.
- We should have the floors cleaned and waxed again. (Hutch previously hired that done.)
- We should paint the outside chairs and the front door.
- MB will give a list of needs to Romie to give to Alan.
- Lightbulbs need replacing.
- Marta and Cindy have been discussing maintenance of the classroom space.

■ Thea gave the **gallery committee report**. The judge for the photography show is Mitchell Kearney, an accomplished, successful Charlotte photographer.

- He will judge the show on the Tuesday or Wednesday after intake.
- The awards are best in show, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and honorable mentions in the categories of **Unaltered & Modified**
- Ribbons have been ordered.
- There will be 2 entries per photographer.

Comment [3]:

Thea is building a list of judges who are also award winning artists in their fields.

■ Marta gave the **education committee report**.

She has 2 new teachers: 1) Steve Linderman, a photographer, who will teach on Thurs. nights for 6 weeks and do summer samplers and 2) Mary Crowe who will teach watercolor.

- Kim wrote a bio of each new teacher for the upcoming flyer.
- Marta is putting ads in the Mint Hill Times and the Matthews-Mint Hill Weekly.
- Mint Hill Times allots a column for MHA. Kim will write about the history lessons she is doing in her homeschool arts program.
- Some teachers may want to teach ongoing summer classes; Marta gives teachers flexibility in their schedules.

The EC evaluated and compared two proposals for **insurance coverage** based on proposal completeness, cost of coverage and non-profit expertise of the firm. The proposal from Carolina Insurance Solutions was selected (minus the Commercial Property option). The next step is to complete the application forms.

Comment [4]:

■ Romie handed out copies of the **Treasurer's report** from Lee.

Comment [5]:

■ We moved to adjourn at 4:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

We have had a chance to do a preliminary de-briefing of the Student Art Show and request your input before we finalize a report. Please feel free to add ideas not addressed in the list below.

1. Schedule the show for March, as we did this year, rather than April as in the past. We got good feedback from the teachers for this move.
2. Continue to focus on area schools (almost all of which participated this year), including:
 - a. High Schools:
 - i. Public: Butler, Independence, Piedmont, Porter Ridge, Rocky River, Sun Valley, Queens Grant
 - ii. Private: Covenant Country Day, United Faith Christian Academy, Northside Christian Academy
 - b. Elementary and Middle Schools:
 - i. Public: Bain Elementary, Clear Creek Elementary, Lebanon Road Elementary, Mint Hill Middle School, Northeast Middle School
 - ii. Private: Covenant Country Day, United Faith Christian Academy, Northside Christian Academy
3. Continue to deliver poster board to the public schools. In this regard:
 - a. We need at least one other person to help with this.
 - b. Even though Romie assures us that he has enough mat board for next year and perhaps beyond, we recommend that, beginning this year, we approach businesses that sell art supplies and frame artwork to ask for donations of mat board. To keep from competing with those businesses we count on for sponsorships, we recommend that we seek donations of mat board from big box stores like Michaels and A.C. Moore and mat board scraps from other stores that do framing, like Fast Frames and Cheap Joe's.
4. Continue to charge no entry fee if feasible for MHA financially.
5. Continue to have only high school students compete for awards; consider adding "Best in Show" if Dr. Robinson is willing.
6. Limit high school entries to one entry per student instead of two. This is needed because we were stretched past the max this year in terms of space and hanging equipment.
7. Alert *The Mint Hill Times* in time for them to cover show; send regular press release to other papers.
8. Continue plan to separate student intake and pickup from regular MHA intake and pickup.
9. Involve the Committee in planning in the fall semester rather than waiting until spring.
10. Do a better job of communicating with the teachers at Mint Hill Arts both in timing and in clarity. Include in communication that students who have taken a class in both fall and spring are eligible to participate. Our own teachers could be provided information as soon as the schools are.
11. Expand Student Show Committee to include one more member of MHA and, if possible, one high school teacher and one parent.

Martha Faires

Secretary, MHA

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