

MHA EC Meeting 11-17-16

Attendees:

Members: Romie Mizell, Cindy Angelelli, Thea Barbato, Marta Brown, Michael (Hutch) Hutchinson, Lee Madden, SandraSmith, Mary Beth Thomas

Guests: Judy Mizell, Peggy L. Harper

The Mint Hill Arts Executive Committee met on Nov. 17, 2016, at 10:00 a.m.

Romie called the meeting to order shortly after 10:00 a.m.

Next month's meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 15, 2016 **at 9:30 a.m. (note atypical time).**

The minutes of the meeting of Oct. 17, 2016 were approved.

Committee Reports and Action Items:

Marta Brown, Education Director, reported on the teaching staff for the winter semester. Malia Bryngelson will not teach a course in pastels, but may offer a Saturday Sampler. Mila Antonyuk, Kim di Biasio, Larry Ferguson, and Ellen Ragona will probably teach. Jan Stora will be encouraged to promote her classes on Facebook and other outlets.

Judy Mizell brought several items to the EC, including:

- Town Hall Exhibits. We are running out of artists for the quarterly Town Hall Exhibits and Judy is getting burned out after handling it almost single-handedly since its inception. She advanced two possible ideas for consideration.
 1. We add the Town Hall as an additional offsite venue. Problems were identified such as not having enough art from a single show which then would require a special intake, which has not worked in the past.
 2. We invite other art groups to have exhibits with the stipulation that MHA would be in charge of one quarter each year. The fear was expressed that we would lose control of the quality of the show and the propriety.

After much discussion, Hutch volunteered to have a one-man show for the January exhibit if he could use matted, but unframed art. To hang the art, he suggested using museum putty, which is strong and non-damaging to walls. Hutch will talk with Larry Ferguson, who hangs the Town Hall exhibit to see if he approves. In addition, Hutch will hang a few pictures using the proposed system to see if the putty holds and the wall remains undamaged.

A few other decisions concerning the Town Hall Exhibits were made, including:

- We will definitely not have any more opening receptions for the Town Hall Exhibits. Few people attend, and since no food or drink is allowed in the gallery, the receptions have to be outside in the heat, cold, rain, etc.
- We will put a visitors' sign-in book on a pedestal by the door so we can get an idea of how many people visit the exhibits.
- Judy will see if Larry Ferguson and Emily Andress would be willing to do solo shows for the second and third quarters of 2016. Solo shows are far easier to manage (intake, obtaining bios, pickup, etc.) and spreads out the artists so we don't run out of talented and willing artists as quickly as we have with group shows.
- Dr. Janet Geradot of Mint Hill Animal Hospital asked if Mint Hill Arts would be interested in hanging animal art in the waiting room. The decision was to ask April McDermott and Jen-

nifer Benton if they would be willing to head up a pilot exhibit. Romie will ask them if they are willing to take this one. In the meantime, Judy will tell Dr. Geradot that we are interested and pursuing a plan.

- The plein air paintout “Capturing Mint Hill” was a success. For next year we need to do the following:
 - Get more sponsors for prizes and advertisement.
 - Get more publicity
 - Start right after the holidays

Marta Brown introduced Peggy L. Harper who had expressed to Marta interest in serving on the EC. She was interviewed (resume attached) by the group and seems to have the skill set to fit into several slots, such as communications and special projects. Mary Beth asked if we could see samples of her writing and Peggy agreed to send them to her to distribute to the members of the EC.

Sandra urged us to formulate, for anyone from outside MHA who applies for an administrative position, a series of personalized activities that allow the volunteer to acquire a knowledge of the members and the workings of MHA. For Peggy, we will ask her to join MHA, serve as a Gallery Host, and then take on a project under Marta’s direction to plan and execute a program promoting our classes. Romie will send Peggy a letter or email thanking her for her interest and time and telling her that when she joins, Ann Litaker will contact her to set up a training session for hosting and Marta will contact her to discuss the event to promote our classes. Mary Beth will notify Ann Litaker that Peggy needs to be trained.

Lee Madden gave the financial report. The great news is that we have received the \$12,000 from the Town of Mint Hill Grant, so are in good shape financially. Cindy asked the status of the charge from the landlord for the broken AC unit. There is no new news, so as it was left, Lee had asked him for a figure, the landlord said we had agreed to \$2,000, Lee pointed out that that had been when we thought the unit was 10 rather than 25 years, old, and the landlord said he would get back to us. We have a new lease due in February, so may see the charge reflected in increased rent. That led to a discussion of the fact we can’t get to the breaker box, which is in our old classroom, when the power goes out in our current classroom. The landlord is supposed to supply us with a key to that room, one we can keep in the desk with the other keys.

Cindy asked for our information for the demographics of the EC for grants. She also reported that in response to a request from the Chamber, she made 20 decorative MHA discount coupons for the Chamber of Commerce Christmas tree that will be displayed in the lobby at Novant Hospital Matthews. Discounts were 15% off gift shop items, 15% off a class or sampler, and 10% off a purchase of \$75 or more for an item from the gallery or gift shop. The EC expressed its appreciation to Cindy for handling this for us.

Thea Barbato gave the Gallery Committee Report.

- Ribbons for the Litaker Show have been ordered, the sponsors of the prizes secured, and the judge selected. The judge will be Greg Scott
- The show schedule for 2017 is as follows (may switch March and April):
 - January – continuation of Litaker Show
 - February – “Really Cool” (non-judged)
 - March – Ninth Annual Student Show (judged; approach Dr. Robinson for awards)
 - April – Photography Show (judged; approach Cardinal Camera and Biggs Camera for awards)
 - May – themed ? (not judged)
 - June – Binder show (judged; approach Binders for awards)

July - "Water" (non-judged)
August – Members only (judged; MHA will sponsor)
September – themed? (non-judged)
October – People's choice, with theme, "Celebrate North Carolina" (judged; ribbons only)
November – Water Media and Pottery (with Pottery 51; judged; Pottery 51 and MHA each provide their own awards and contribute to Best in Show)
December – Litaker show.

Concerning awards, Sandra pointed out that many companies and businesses commit their funding to non-profits early in the calendar year. She suggested that we might include in our end-of-year letter thanking sponsors for providing awards a request for their support in 2017. It was suggested that we do the same for sponsors for the 2017 plein air paint out. In addition, Romie and Hutch will draft a letter requesting support to send to potential new sponsors at years end and will bring that to the December meeting. Logistics as to whether or not to include a form for a pledge or donation and a return envelope were not discussed and it is assumed this will be worked out at the next meeting.

The following announcements or short discussions ensued:

- We will not respond to a mailing from Yelp to MHA c/o Romie at this time
- We will decline the offer from Harris Teeter to pay to add our name to paper bags from the pharmacy.
- The next offsite we will require a special call for entries since the number pieces of 2D art in this month's show is very small. We have to be sure the artists understand that their art will hang offsite until the end of January. Romie will inform Mary Magee, Chair of the Offsite Committee, of the situation.
- Hutch is now handling Facebook for all parts of MHA except for classes. The group expressed thanks to Hutch for taking this on.
- Cindy kindly agreed to craft letters to spell out "Mint Hill Arts" to be placed near the top of the front door. Larry and Mary Beth are working on a frame for a sign to go on the door announcing the name of the current show. Cindy suggested that we simply purchase an acrylic frame with a slot to slip the sheet into. Mary Beth will discuss that with Larry.
- Sandra suggested that we needed to get rid of the art that has been abandoned. Artists have been notified repeatedly. A silent auction was suggested. Since no action was taken, the topic will appear on next month's agenda.
- Agenda items for the next meeting include:
 - Formation of a Nominating Committee.
 - Formulation of a plan to sell the unclaimed art that is cluttering up the storage area.
 - Report from the Student Show Committee about preliminary plans (including date) for the Ninth Annual Student Art Show.
 - Final decisions on year-end letters 1) asking current sponsors to commit for next year (Sandra), and 2) soliciting donations from potential new sponsors (Romie and Hutch). Forms and return envelopes will need to be included.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted.

Mary Beth Thomas substituting for Martha Faires, Secretary MHA

Attachment: Resume of Peggy Harper