

VWS Board Meeting Minutes
May 3, 2020 - 4:00-5:45 pm
Video Conference Call – Zoom.com

Present: Joey Bibeau, Jean Cannon, Tony Conner, Adrienne Fisher, Angie Parlin, Judith Selin, Chris Sumner, Lauren Wooden

Agenda

4:06 Tony welcomed the Board, with brief comments about the effects of the pandemic

4:07 Approve Minutes from Feb. 16th meeting

Chris made a motion to approve the minutes from 2/16/20. Lauren seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

4:10 Spring Meeting Discussion

The discussion centered around the safety issue of bringing the membership together during the Pandemic. Since Lynn Pratt had offered to do a demonstration at the meeting, Tony will ask her if she would agree to do the demonstration on Zoom.

Jean made a motion to cancel the Spring Conference in person, and substitute an on-line offering. Joey seconded it. The motion passed unanimously. (Tony will check with Lynn about doing a demonstration on-line.)

4:30 Directors' Reports

EXHIBITS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Spring/Summer show at the Gruppe Gallery in Jericho: I have not heard anything from Emilie Alexander recently so I am assuming that the show will go on. I know that a neighboring gallery, the Bryan in Jeffersonville, is accepting paintings for their two summer shows and is hoping to be open to the public. Emilie is aware of this.
- Fall Awards Show at the Chaffee in Rutland: We are still on according to my last communication with the director. I have found jurors. Ron Bigony is the juror of selection: www.ronbigony.com. And Mickey Myers is our juror of awards. Mickey is the director of the Bryan Memorial Gallery. The juror of awards needs to see the real paintings, and so needs to live not too far away. I had a bit of a trouble finding someone, but feel good about this choice.
- Spring 2021 Show at the Highland Center for the Arts: The Director, Maureen Burgess, responded to my emails this spring and I am a bit concerned. We only have a verbal agreement and no date.
- Jean made a motion to appoint Jeanette Fournier to be Co-Director of Exhibits. Joey seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT
CHRIS SUMNER

Chris noted that there has been no change from her last report. She will wait to contact the new bookkeeper, until the restrictions of the pandemic are lifted and all the parties involved feel safe.

**DIRECTOR OF HUBS
ANNE (ANGIE) PARLIN**

As far as the Hubs are concerned, they were all getting ready to hold events when Corona-19 struck. From what I hear, none of them are eager to get back to planning events until it is safe, but when it is, they are ready to go.

Update:

Burlington Hub got a show up at All Souls Interfaith in Shelburne. Then the virus came, and the building has been closed since. They are hoping to be able to get in to take down the show at the end of May.

A workshop in Montreal was set for July 8th, but is now cancelled with the border shut and all the uncertainty.

A workshop with Jean Mackay is penciled in for October.

They are holding a "Conversation Webinar" with Vladislav Yeliseyev on May 8th.

**DIRECTOR OF MEMBERSHIP
LAUREN WOODEN**

I've been working with Natasha for quite a while now - sharing my computer and program, helping her with data, but she is doing the lion's share of the transfer of databases over to the new one. I think it will be another month before it is up and running and we can all then do a training that will allow us to all access information and get reports that we might need. The database will automatically update any online payments or new folks, and I will handle the checks that come in and update manually. It will remind people about the payment when it comes due and will thank them for their payment automatically. Natasha can talk more about all the details when we train with her.

For now, I have been trying to keep track of any payments that come in while we are in transition. I have only gotten one check in that time and a couple of PayPal payments (good and bad!). Does the check still go to Betty or do we have a new person for that job? (Chris answered that the checks should continue to go to Betty.)

This membership report is from 2-15-2020 to 5-2-2020

VWS Membership Data as of 5-2-2020

Members – Current (Paid through 2020) 140
Members Paid through 2019: 80
Student Members old and current (free): 31

Lapsed Members - Unpaid for this and last year (Paid thru 2018) 13

Total: 251 plus 13 lapsed? 264

New VWS members during this period: 3

**DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS
JOEY BIBEAU**

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, our Spring conference will not be held as planned, nor will the Rick Surowisc workshop. We will work on possibility of having a gathering on Zoom. Tony will have several updates for this on-line meeting.

5:00 Member Database Update

See the beginning of Lauren's report above. Lauren thinks the update could be completed in another two weeks or so by June 1, 2020.

5:10 Open Discussion on Future of VWS Hub and Group Activities

The future of group activities will depend on the Governor's guidelines and recommendations. We think people will continue to be cautious. Jean has been painting in plein air, keeping social distance that has worked out well. Angie has done the same. However, VWS does not want to sanction any

groups to paint together. Tony will draft a policy concerning this and email it for the Board to give feedback and then vote on it. He will also research what the state regulations and guidelines are and how they relate to our organization. Tony will get back to the board with recommendations about various possibilities to have meetings at the Hub level.

5:15 2020 Goals Review

- #1 Form a public relations committee to guide and track VWS outreach activities - In progress
- #2 Fill all positions for 2020 - In progress Tony will submit a list of what positions are available by July 1 to be put in the August 1 Newsletter
- #3 Investigate paying VWS members to give classes - Write a written feasibility report
Tony will try to complete this by July Board meeting.
- #4 Gather Data re: Hub activities and record how many participate
Angie will begin to gather data on Hub activity
- #5 Develop job descriptions - Each Board member will develop a list of what they actually do and a short description of what the tasks entail by July 1, 2020 so they can be placed in the August Newsletter.
- #6. Increase paid membership to 215 - Currently there are 140 members in good standing. We will encourage the 80 lapsed members to pay their membership fee, which would help us meet this goal.
- #7 Re-visit the 'I Can Paint Program'
Tony will form an informal committee to review this and report back to the Board with recommendations.

Within this review, it was noted that several Board positions will need replacing. The Board is 'charged' with finding our replacements.

5:30 Open Discussion

The idea of a trailer for our exhibits could be prepared for the state fairs. Tony will order the brochures. Judith will order bumper stickers. Both were previously approved by the Board.

5:40 Next Meeting

Sunday, July 12, 2020, on Zoom

5:43 Adjourn

Angie made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jean seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Adrienne Fisher, Secretary