

Art and Culture Commission of Lemont

Minutes from September 9, 2014

In attendance: Mona Parry

Ron Stapleton

Emily J.B. Christian

Eric Hawrysz

S. M. Bruce

Kate Rutledge

~~AMB~~ Guests: Lisa Simone Porter and Randy Vick

Old Business

The July minutes were accepted by Eric and seconded by Emily. The August minutes were accepted by Emily and seconded by Eric. The contribution account balance is \$26,023.46 and the budget account has \$937.

The commission is still in need of two commissioners.

There is no new information on our pursuit of the 501c3 by Eric or Kate, but Christine from the Village will attend a meeting in the future.

Kate gave a report on the Strategic Planning event. The commissioners discussed holding another Strategic meeting possibly in January. Sue will include a copy of the report with the minutes from September at the next meeting.

~~AMB~~ The commission is pursuing the Yarn Bomb on October 10 from 10:- 4:00 p.m. Sue will purchase bright colored yarn. Kate will work on the advertising and Eric will post the information on our websites.

The Recognition Day for the Center's volunteers is scheduled for October 5, 2014 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Kate will send out an evite.

The Painting Jam will be moved to the spring.

The mural "There comes a Time . . ." dedication may be scheduled for October 18.

Committee Reports

Village Liaison – Ron Stapleton

Ron stated that 4 Penguins and Jilly's is open for business. He check on the status of the potential commissioners with the Village.

Art Organizations – The Guild is resuming their meetings on September 17.

~~AMB~~ Eric stated that "Clemente" is in production.

School Liaison – Mona volunteered to be the liaison.

Fundraising – open position

Grants – Kate has volunteered to take this position from Maggie. She has met with Maggie. Sue will calculate the financials for the IAC grant. The ACC has received \$650 from IAC and \$2000 from Target. Mona will coordinate another "Art Explore" with the elementary schools with the Target grant.

(over)

Artist of the Month - Heather coordinates. September is a preview of the Veteran's Exhibit currently held at the library. It was decided that there should not be an Artist of the Month for November and December during our Holiday Bazaar.

Social Media – Eric has been updating Word Press and Facebook..

Exhibits

The current exhibit will be from September 5 – October 28, 2014. Sue, Randy, and Mona installed the 4th Anniversary Show. 45 people attended the reception that was held on September 7 from 1 -3:00 p.m. The total cost for the exhibit came to \$683.86.

The Holiday Bazaar will be November 7 through December 21. A preview night will be scheduled. Mona will put out a call to artists.

Lemont Loves the Arts will be the exhibit in January and February.

The tentative dates of March 6th – April 12th of 2015 will be a collaboration with the Illinois State Poetry Society. This time the poets will compose poems to coordinate with artwork submitted. Mona will put out a call to artists and communicate with Wilda Morris with the Poetry Society.

April 17th – May 9th is the tentative dates for the Old Quarry exhibit with a reception on Tuesday, May 5th.

New Business

The commissioners would like to send a thank you gift to Brad Byarski.

Halloween Hoedown is October 25 from 1 – 4:00 p.m. Mona and Sue will work the event. Sue purchased the scratch art items for the children.

The Village has some of Lee Anderson's carved birds that they want to donate to the Center. Ron will bring them to the Center. Mona will check on the intention of the family.

Mural donations received in August totaled \$365.

There was discussion of holding a photography exhibit during the summer of 2015.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 14, 2014. The meeting ended at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by S. M. Bruce



Strategic Planning Ideas...

Commissioners and one guest gathered together in May of 2014 to discuss the past, present, and future of the A&CC as well as the Lemont Center for the Arts.

It was agreed that much progress has been made in advancing Arts Awareness in Lemont with the help of the Art and Culture Commission. Some memorable activities and events have included Painting Jams, Chair Decorating, Umbrellas for Peace, Art Week and October Art Fest. Some of these events were repeated, but they are not currently on the calendar.

Discussion took place on the duality of the A&CC, now that the LCA is open. Some of the A&CC focus of public activities has shifted into gallery type activities within the space. Both are good, and both are time and volunteer consuming. More discussion needs to take place to address this shift in focus.

We will continue to piggyback off of Village events: Heritage Fest, Halloween Hoedown, Hometown Holiday, Old Car Night, and the Farmer's Markets. But we agreed that we need to renew and build connections with other Lemont groups- Artists Guild, Garden Clubs, Historical Society, LJWC, etc.

Would be nice to revisit First Friday Art Walks or to work more with Aurora Rose in downtown.

More classes, programs and collaborative exhibits were discussed. Ideas included Scrapbooking or collage, musical concerts at the LCA, poetry readings, performance art, , art film showings, mosaic, jewelry making, fused glass, knitting, and more.

A photography exhibit and demonstration/ classes was discussed as a way to open the art center for all to show. Standard sized prints depicting Lemont would be the showcase. LCA would provide either mats or inexpensive frames. A proposal was made- "Lemont Then and Now" in conjunction with the Historical Society.

Another thematic exhibit idea was introduced- Botanicals- to bring together the LCA and the garden clubs. Invite artists to submit floral/ nature work and host demonstrations and lectures at the LCA.

We agreed to try a Sit and Stitch with the idea of Yarn Bombing trees in the parking area of the LCA. Knitting and Finger knitting demonstrations would be offered in October and November, and we will try to bring this into the schools as well. We will provide brightly colored yarns.

It was also discussed that it would be nice to have a more year round area for sales of artwork and jewelry. Looking at several other art galleries, it seems that year round retail is the norm. If more artists display during the year, it may lead to more volunteers, and therefore the LCA could be open more days.

Decided to host Barbershop Quartet to promote the new mural during a Car Night.

Another planning meeting will take place in January of 2015 with the focus on the long term goals of the LCA and the A&CC, including fundraising needs and goals.