

ARTS COUNCIL BOARD MINUTES – July 7, 2009

PRESENT: Mary-Carel Verden, Amy McFarland, Christina Dollhausen, Lynn Gifford, Bill Brehm, John Beutel, Norma Standing, David Phillips, Bill Howard, Ann Katz—guest

EXCUSED: Coleen Kehl, Kathryn Jones, Erica Dial

The meeting called to order at 9:03 a.m.

June Minutes presented and reviewed. Motion to approve by Phillips second by Brehm. June minutes were approved.

OLD BUSINESS

- Website – 175 views, still needs a bit of work to update
- Treasurer's report – About \$700 in account.
- Ann Katz from Arts Wisconsin attended meeting. Discussion was held on the arts and arts council mission. Ann suggested we consider a fundable project such as getting assistance with creating a searchable database or similar project.

Katz and the council discussed the position of the Stoughton Arts Council and possible funding opportunities. She concurred that the arts council position was that of leading the arts in the community, taking the pulse of the arts community as well the city and community in general to see what they want in terms of access to the arts, arts education, Possible other projects would include funding studies in the community and possibly a coordinator. National Endowment for the Arts might be a possibility to fund that kind of community building activity. The Arts Council should become the glue that holds the arts together – the challenge is to figure out what you're supposed to be doing and how to do it. Arts Wisconsin help the arts sector on where to find money and make connections and make sure everyone everywhere has access to the arts. The Wisconsin idea has always included the arts, the university supports the arts, community arts groups grassroots based. 150 arts councils around the state.

Resources we can access:

- Ann willing to write a letter of support for the Arts Council.
 - facilitated planning assistance – need – resources – how to move forward – include stakeholders (mayor, school, etc.) – consider planning a board retreat
 - workshop on surviving the economy
 - awards to supporting officials
 - Ann could speak at rotary type organizations,
 - business lunch with Chamber?
 - Dane Cty Cultural – Karen Crosley
 - Madison Arts Commission
- June Fine Artsy Fair – volunteers from Whitewater, Norma Standing and Henry and Mary-Carel staffed. Note was sent to membership – asking if they are interested – one response. Verden suggested school project to get art we'd own. Brehm – do a video on the arts, art film, project.
 - Halloween Art Contest —Request to members needs to be sent to get judges.
 - No schedule so far for meeting with new City Oversight committee.
 - Next meeting - Switching to annual membership – continuing discussion of membership and benefits.

NEW BUSINESS

- Grants and follow-up from Ann Katz.

Next meeting will be August 4th, 9 am in the Giles Dow room.

Phillips moved to adjourn, Howard seconded, at 10:18 a.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary-Carel Verden