

2013-10-06

The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m. in the board room of the Mobile Museum of Art by President Karen McGahagin. All officers were present except Patti Vickery who was ill. Eighteen members were present.

First of all, Karen presented Ernie Kirkland with his 20-year pin and congratulated him on his "perseverance". Photos and applause followed.

Then Karen read from notes taken at a workshop by Allan Butt, a well-liked and –respected member who has recently moved away: Five Points of a Good Painting

1. Creativity: something the judges haven't seen
2. Composition: Rule of Thirds
3. Color
4. Contrast: strong elements of lights & darks (drama)
5. Craftsmanship: how well the work has been painted

Karen asked if anyone needed the minutes read aloud, as they had been emailed to all previously. Ainsley McNeely moved that the minutes be accepted as mailed. Joanne Brandt seconded. Passed.

Since Patti could not be present, Karen read the Treasurer's report. The ending balance is \$2,763.86. Karen moved the report be accepted and Lynda Smith Touart seconded. Accepted.

We went over the details for the November show at the Mobile Arts Council [put forth in the last Newsletter]. In answer to questions about the pick-up times, Mary Rodning said that Charlie Smoke had not yet given us a definite date and time, but that she would press him for an answer before we needed to know. Also, we are to be allowed 30-50 pieces in the Skinny Gallery, depending on size. The entry fee will be \$20 for 2 pieces. Mary emphasized that we may be expected to pay a 20% commission on any sales. Several people said that they thought that such was voluntary but well worth it for all the work to promote the local arts that MAC does. Joanne mentioned that WGAS usually gave a donation in the name of the group as a whole.

The judge will be Richard Millman, who will be tasked with selecting the correct number of works. Lynda asked if he was going to submit a painting of his own. Mary pointed out that the problem would be getting it back to him after the show. She will give him the option, with the understanding that it might be some time before it could be returned to him.

Karen went over the awards for the show, noting that the Bruckmann family has this year increased their award to \$500.00, and will be giving the Best of Show prize. This was met with great appreciation. There will also be a Smith Family award of \$200.00, which may be for Best Watercolor or Best Graphic. The donors (Karen's family) have not yet made a determination. Southern Art and Alabama Art Supply are each donating \$100 in merchandize.

Karen stated that she is negotiating with BRAG for our spring show to be held there in March, but that has not yet been finalized. BRAG has changed its name to The Daphne Art Center and the director is now Lynn Rios. Karen will follow up.

We then discussed venues for our shows. We need to branch out to new spaces. Some suggestions were:

1. Eichold Gallery – Wanda Sullivan, the director has said we would be welcome there, but Kathy Friedline stressed that their security was non-existent, and there was a general murmur of disapproval.
2. Robertson Gallery – although Brad was interested in having us in his space, it has now closed, and reopened in a smaller and more out-of-the-way place. Ainsley mentioned that often landlords were willing to have something in a building rather than have it sit empty, and wondered who will be in that space now, as it is quite nice for an exhibition. We will await further developments.
3. Ashland Gallery – suggested by Lydia Host, would seem to be a very good venue since they often have special events and usually draw a good crowd. As no one present had special connections to Ashland,

Karen will try to find out about that. Perhaps Lydia could be of help. Owners are Sue Adair and Cathy Collins.

4. West Regional – gets lots of public traffic, but not really much attention or sales. They have been quite nice to us in the past, but the question is, is it really worth it?
5. Kungal Gallery – Gail Bramer had emailed suggesting that WGAS might be able to rent a space there on a monthly basis, whereby the space would be under the heading of WGAS, but a number of members would take a month at a time and pay according to how many people were involved. The cost would depend on the size of the space selected and how many members were sharing the space. This would not be an exhibition as such (WGAS exhibition rules would not be enforced) but would be an ongoing opportunity to show and to put the Society's name forward. Some unusually good organization would be required, a sign-up sheet, division of money and work, etc. Gail said that the commission was 18%. Lynda asked Gail to have Susan Kungal email the details – how much for what size space, etc. It was pointed out that someone would need to be in charge of such. Lynda quickly nominated Gail. Karen seconded. Gail put her hands on her head, but did not outright refuse.
6. Daphne Civic Center – Evonne Bilbo suggested this might be a good place. She will check on it.
7. Room 1927 at the Saenger (used to be Art Off Center) – Lynda has been trying to find out about that space (which would be very nice and get a lot of traffic when there is an event at the Saenger or at ArtWalk). But right now the whole issue of the Saenger is in flux with the change of Saenger management and the new Mayor coming in. We will follow up when things are more settled.
8. USA Library – Lynda said that she thought that Dr. Wood was still out with his cancer treatment. Mary stated that he had returned to Mobile. Karen offered that some people had told her that they did not care to exhibit there because there was very little public traffic, and students mostly did not notice the art. Lynda asked who was in charge now and was told that Kitty Emery was taking care of things.
9. MAC – Karen said that it is booked through 2014, but that she would inquire about 2015
10. Portier Place – Marcy mentioned that Debbie Clolinger was looking for artists to exhibit there. Lynda remarked that it was rather a small space, but that we could look on it like the Kungal idea with 1-4 artists exhibiting there at a time. Perhaps Debbie would be glad to have WGAS take the space for several months, if the space is open that much, and rotate work every month. That might be easier on her, as the arrangements would be set for several month at a time. Marcy Materine said that she and Debbie had been friends for some 30 years, so she was chosen to talk to Debbie about it. She will also contact Somersby to see if they would be interested.

The next topic was meeting venues. There have been complaints from the Baldwin County members that coming to West Mobile for the meetings is very inconvenient. A couple of members stated that in the past when we have moved our meetings toward Fairhope, there were still very few people from that side of the bay in attendance, and then even fewer from Mobile. It seemed a good idea to recommend that Baldwin County people be asked to suggest locations. Meanwhile several alternatives were suggested:

1. BRAG
2. Five Rivers
3. Daphne Civic Center (also a possible venue for exhibitions)
4. Daphne City Hall (also a possible venue for exhibitions)
5. Unidentified restaurant on the causeway – Mary suggested that in that case we could make the meeting earlier and people could have lunch at the restaurant of choice.

Ainsley told us about the MMA Open Studio that is being arranged. The first question is whether it should be in the morning or at night. Thursday nights are already open at the museum. No agreement was reached on this question. The cost would be minimal, just for paper towels and coffee. It would not be a class, but an open studio. Ainsley stated that she had not been able to get a final answer from the MMA, although they seemed very taken with the idea. She will submit a written proposal.

Ainsley suggested that we compile a mailing list of people to whom to send announcements of our exhibitions, with each member submitting five names. She stressed that these should consist of people who might actually buy work, not artists' friends and the like. Lynda asked if she meant snail mail. Joanne suggested that we send

out an announcement jpg to our Members and let them send to people they know, either email or snail mail. After some discussion, we agreed that this would be the best way.

In new business Ainsley suggested that we change the exhibition rules so that work as old as 5 years be allowed, as long as it has not been in WGAS exhibitions before. She stated that she had met with some disagreement when she spoke to people about it, and had since changed her recommendation to 4 years. Conroy Hudlow suggested that it be 3 years, and indicated that he did not think that rule and the exhibition rules belong in the constitution. Karen read out the rule in the Constitution: *"Timeliness: Entries must have been executed within the past two years and not exhibited in WGAS shows before."* Joanne stated that she thought 4 years was too long. Ainsley pointed out that "fresh" was not the same thing as "new". Some other members said that they had had years when they couldn't get enough work done, and contrariwise, years when they produced too much work to get it all into shows. Ainsley said that it might give us a bigger pool of entries from which to pull.

Lynda will send out the proposed rule change in our next newsletter and we can vote on it at the next meeting (date undetermined at this time).

There being no further discussion, Karen banged her gavel and directed us all to the refreshments provided, at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynda Smith Touart, Secretary