

2022-08-06

The General Meeting of the Watercolor & Graphic Arts Society was held at the Mobile Arts Council 1927 Joachim Street, on 6 August, at 10 AM. Eight members were present.

Ben recognized Gail Bramer who had information about the Free Little Art Gallery opening locally. It is modeled on the Free Little Library system. https://www.mobilecountyal.gov/community_events/events/free-little-art-gallery-little-grand-opening-2022-08-12/

Ben asked if there were any confessions from anyone. Lynda asked if he wanted to play Truth or Dare. He continued that he is worried about the WGAS for the seeming lack of community and enthusiasm. He further stated that he is leaving his presidency and probably the organization to devote himself to oil painting, but that he had much respect for WGAS and wanted to see it do more. Gail asked about moving to a more open membership, like the Sumi-e group. Monique pointed out that several of our members were in both groups. Rudy listed the requirements for membership and stated that résumés had been missing in the past at ESAC. He asserted that we need sponsors in addition. Marcy noted that we often need extra people to look over entries for times that the take-in gets hectic. Monique said we need the rules posted at take-in, even though everyone was to have read the rules and signed that form. Rudy volunteered to make a poster for that purpose. Ben said that people might not read it still. Rudy responded that he will use glitter. Lynda asked if it would be specific to individual shows but was assured that it would be only the general rules as in the constitution.

Ben said that we need new, younger members. Melissa said that we need more people who were interested in working for the good of the group. There was general agreement, and Monique suggested we hold an open house for some young people at one of our exhibits to promote the WGAS. JoAnn Cox asked if there was a lower age limit. Since there is not, she suggested that teachers in our group could be persuaded to drum up interest among their students. Amanda Youngblood and others were mentioned as art teachers who might do that. Melissa Root replied that we need a Tik Tok presence. Ben pointed out that MAC is one of the main places that young people go to get information about local arts. JoAnn suggested that the meetings should be more social. Melissa said that in addition there should be a sense of mentoring. Marcy said that we need more meetings with programs. Gail said we could meet and paint as a group and that she does better with a group of painters. Melissa said a watercolor demo would be good at a meeting: eat drink, and paint. Rudy said that he would enjoy demonstrating new Winsor & Newton ProMarkers that he likes. He volunteered his house for a meeting 'as soon as [he] finishes painting his ceiling'.

We discussed the upcoming exhibition. Ben gave the date and times: October 1st, from 11 AM till 2 PM. The reception will be October 14th during Artwalk. Marcy said that she had had to refund a number of overpayments on PayPal because members were mistakenly selecting the amount for the entry fee (\$35) rather than the dues amount (\$30). Monique suggested that the entry fee was the default on the drop-down menu on the web page. Mary said she would contact Sarah about changing it. She also sated that she would beg Sarah to continue as a sort of IT person since she was so much better at it than Marcy or Lynda. Lynda enthusiastically agreed.

We discussed voting on new officers. This should have been done long ago but the meetings had been problematic, especially since COVID. It was observed that even with so few members present, we had a quorum. JoAnn Cox and Rudy Villarreal were elected as President and 1st Vice President respectively. Marcy read a list of active members. Though some names were discussed, no 2nd Vice President was found. This will have to be addressed later, as Sarah will be stepping down. Rudy asked for a list of judges. Lynda said that she had a very old one and would look for it.

Additional venues were suggested. Rudy mentioned seeing a show at Old Majestic Brewing Company, and that it was a good place to show. He asked if the Marx Library had the same requirements as the Student Center had. Marcy said that in the past they had not, but she purposely didn't mention it at the time, for fear the library would decide they needed that, too.

Marcy gave the treasurer's report [attached]. We took a hit on the last show due to the small number of entries. Gail asked about moving the money to a more profitable arrangement, but Marcy answered that she didn't know of one and would be glad to learn of one. She added that she could not be a financial advisor for the group. Monique asked if we could match the awards given at the spring exhibition, but after discussion the awards were set at: BoS-\$250, 2nd - \$150, 3rd-\$100, CP Landry - \$50 (funded by a donor), and Honorable Mention-\$50, with the understanding that we will try to get more outside awards.

Lynda asked when we would propose new members as it is extremely close to the fall exhibition. It was decided that the next time would be for the spring show. However, new members can be proposed at any time, and they will be notified eight weeks prior to the particular show.

Marcy suggested that we needed to meet more often. Lynda moved that we meet at 10 AM on November 5th. JoAnn said we could meet at her house, 2375 Staples Road, in Mobile. Then the next meeting (no date yet) would be at Rudy's house.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynda Smith Touart, Secretary WGAS