

ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting of Tuesday, 06 September 2011
Mansfield Community Center (MCC) Conference Room

MINUTES

1. The meeting was **called to order** at 7:05p by Tom Bruhn. *Members present:* Tom Bruhn, Scott Lehmann, Blanche Serban, Joe Tomanelli, David Vaughan. *Members absent:* Kim Bova. *Others present:* Jay O’Keefe (staff).

2. **Membership.** New members Joe Tomanelli and David Vaughan were introduced and welcomed; Joe and David teach music in public schools and are particularly interested in involving young people in music and the other arts. Scott reviewed for them what he could recall of the history of the Committee and its work. Joe asked whether the Committee (1) has had a role in planning summer music programs at Bicentennial Pond and the Community Center or (2) has cooperated with the University in introducing young people in town to its extensive art offerings (programs at Jorgensen, exhibits at the Benton, etc.). Answers: No, but these are things it could certainly pursue. David would like to see an informal summer music program, where young people are invited to show up with their instruments to play relatively simple music, perhaps presenting a concert after several rehearsals; he and Joe would be willing to direct such a program. He asked (1) whether the Committee could solicit contributions to cover expenses and (2) what facilities might be available. Answers: (1) Probably, but fund-raising should be coordinated with the Parks and Recreation Department, which also solicits contributions from area businesses; (2) Arrangements for using indoor facilities – schools, Community Center – in the summer would need to be made far in advance.

3. The draft **minutes** of the 12 July 2011 meeting, amended to correct the syntax of the last sentence of 4b, were approved.

4. The **annual report** to the Town Manager drafted by Scott was approved.

5. **MCC exhibits.**

- a. **Murray Wachman** has submitted photos of 16 paintings he proposes to exhibit in the fall; they are all OK. Some are large enough to hang in the upper sitting room space. He apparently would like to use all the flat-art display areas. Blanche will ask Kim to notify Mr. Wachman that his show has been approved and to tell him that he could hang works in the hallways now (Renee Raucci’s are still up in the sitting room).
- b. Tom will ask **Suzy Staubach** to exhibit ceramics in the display cases in the fall. She must, of course, submit the usual application
- c. Scott attempted to contact **Jim Gabianelli** via the “Contact” button on his website, but has heard nothing from him. He will resend the message to the e-mail address on Mr. Gabianelli’s application.
- d. **Jan Geoghegan** would like the hallways and lower sitting room space for her encaustic & mixed media show in the winter display period.
- e. **Lucille Eichner** has applied to show her collection of approximately fifty dolls – a third of them per month – in the display cases. Tom observed that the collection does not qualify as creative art; he also expressed concern about security for dolls that may be quite valuable. The Committee agreed that Ms. Eichner should find a different venue for her show. The Mansfield Library might be approached, though it may not have a secure case available for displaying collections such as hers.

| Exhibit Period | Entry cases | | Sitting room | | Hallway | |
|-----------------|--|---------|---|-----------|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| | Double-sided | Shelves | Upper (5) | Lower (3) | Long (5) | Short (2) |
| 01 Jun – 14 Aug | <i>Storrs Puppet Theatre items</i> | | <i>Reneé Raucci</i> (watercolors) | | <i>Helen Dewey</i> (watercolors) | |
| 15 Aug – 14 Oct | <i>Festival advertising Art show winners</i> | | | | | |
| 15 Oct – 14 Jan | <i>Suzy Staubach?</i> (ceramics) | | <i>Murray Wachman</i> (acrylics) | | | |
| 15 Jan – 14 Apr | | | <i>Jan Geoghegan</i> (encaustic & mixed media) | | | |

6. **Outdoor summer performance facility.** David suggested that the Committee recommend that the Town pursue constructing an outdoor facility for summer music performances. This could be a permanent band shell or something as simple as a flat space against an outside wall with some sound reflectors affixed to it. There was general agreement that such a facility would be a good thing. However, Tom suggested that we first give more thought to what kind of facility we want to propose and where it should be. Joe will find out how Coventry

proceeded in obtaining its band shell and report back to the Committee. Jay suggested considering promoting a regional facility that could serve neighboring towns; he noted that there have been some conversations with Windham on co-sponsoring bus trips and other recreational activities.

7. Adjourned at 8:18p. Next meeting: 7:00p, Tuesday, 04 October 2011.

Scott Lehmann, Secretary, 08 September 2011; approved 04 October 2011.