

ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting of Tuesday, 04 February 2014
Mansfield Community Center (MCC) Conference Room

MINUTES

1. The meeting was **called to order** at 5:00p by Scott Lehmann. *Members present:* Tom Bruhn, Scott Lehmann, David Vaughan. *Members absent:* Kim Bova, Anke Finger. *Others present:* Jay O’Keefe (staff), Matt Hart (Town Manager), Cynthia van Zelm (Downtown Partnership). The agenda was re-ordered to accommodate Ms. van Zelm and Mr. Hart.

2. Town Square art. Cynthia van Zelm briefly reviewed the design of the Town Square, showing on a map where three pieces of sculptural art would go. She would like the Committee’s input on a draft “Request for Proposals” (RFP, dated 04 Feb) from artists for these works. Several changes were suggested:

- Replace paragraph 2 under “Review Process” with an indication that artists may submit as many proposals as they wish – or put this information at the beginning of “Project requirements”. The Committee thought that requiring different artists for different pieces might rule out worthy proposals.
- Replace “marquette” with “maquette” in the first bullet item under “Project Requirements”.
- Revise the “Project Timeline” so that the deadline for receipt of proposals is moved back at least to mid-April. Artists will need to see the site and the architect’s plan for the Square, and then come up with creative ways of “celebrat[ing] the Mansfield community by reflecting on at least one of the following themes: culture, history, agriculture, or education.” The RFP is not asking for off-the-shelf products.
- Include a submission form in the RFP to help insure that submitted proposals are complete.
- Indicate in the “Summary” that proposals will be held in confidence for review (not released for public comment) and that they will be returned to the artist after review.
- Under “Project Requirements”, group “Biographical information ...”, “Up to ten work samples ...”, and “Three references ...” together, separating them from information about the work proposed.

Scott asked how much money was available for art in the Square and wondered whether the RFP should give some indication of the amount, lest we get proposals that are beyond fiscal reason. Ms. van Zelm thought that \$135K might be raised from donors.

The RFP indicates that the Committee will be responsible for reviewing the proposals from artists, and Ms. van Zelm asked whether that was agreeable. Scott asked for clarification on the Committee’s role: would it have the authority to select art for the Square or only to make a recommendation to another body, which would do this. Matt Hart indicated that he would like the Committee to make the selection. The Committee agreed to assume this responsibility and to consult with the fund-raisers, donors, architect, and perhaps others during the review process.

3. Old Eagleville schoolhouse. Mr. Hart indicated that Joshua’s Trust will be vacating the old Eagleville schoolhouse at the intersection of routes 32 and 275. He would like the Committee to consider at a subsequent meeting whether this facility could be put to use for art studios.

Mr. Hart and Ms. van Zelm left the meeting.

4. The draft **minutes** of 07 Jan 14 meeting were approved as written.

5. Summer concerts. Jay suggested that David’s proposal for a summer concert by the Windham Concert Band be made to the Parks and Recreation Department. The Band has performed in the Department’s summer music concert series in the past, and Jay thought that a proposal from it would be well-received. In Jay’s view, a special line in the budget for summer concerts is not needed at this time. The Department usually can scrape together \$1-1.5K to cover four concerts, and the Committee could chip in some of its annual \$500 budget to support the series if necessary. David agreed to refashion his draft proposal for submission to Bette Stern. Jay indicated that the Committee could, if desired, have a role in planning summer concerts. Scott would welcome learning what groups and performers are being considered.

6. MCC exhibits.

a. Tom reported that **Roger Crossgrove** is willing to exhibit some of his works. As he is of advanced age, his son would help with selection and handle installation. It was agreed that Mr. Crossgrove should be offered wall space for the summer period (01 June – 15 August). Tom will do so.

b. David has sent applications to **Nancy Shay** of Pomfret and **Prescott Powers** of Mansfield. He hopes they will respond with proposals to exhibit.

c. Kim has forwarded to Committee members photos from **Sherrie Gage** of the sort of ceramic works from her CSA class she would like to exhibit. They seem entirely suitable. She could have the display cases from 15 April *provided* they are not needed for the display of Mansfield school art that we have typically arranged for the period from 15 April to 31 May. Otherwise, the summer period is available. Scott will ask Kim to help sort this out.

d. **Pattie Tuite** would like to exhibit watercolors by **Richard Davis**, now deceased, from 15 April to 15 July, as a prelude to a show at The Lily Pad, where they would be offered for sale, with proceeds to benefit E.O.Smith High School. If Mansfield school art is up from 15 April to 31 May, she would have to exhibit before (now to 14 April) or after (01 June to 15 July). However, the Committee needs to review photos of the works. David will ask her for them.

Exhibit Period	Entry cases		Sitting room		Hallway	
	Double-sided	Shelves	Upper (5)	Lower (3)	Long (5)	Short (2)
1/15 to 4/14	<i>David Corsini</i> (assemblages)			<i>Richard Davis?</i> (watercolors)		
4/15 to 5/31	Mansfield school art? CSA ceramics?			Mansfield school art?		
6/01 to 8/15	CSA ceramics?			<i>Davis?</i>	<i>Roger Crossgrove?</i>	

7. Adjourned at 6:15p. Next meeting: **5:00p**, Tuesday, 04 March 2014.

Scott Lehmann, Secretary, 05 February 2014; approved 01 April 2014.