

MINUTES OF THE APD COMMITTEE MEETING MAR 26, 2014 (2-3:00pm, 4th floor conference room)

CHAIR'S REPORT

Dianne Maffia began by thanking the docents for their contributions to an album for Diane Arkin. Over 30 letters have been received, and will be placed, along with a group photo, in the album. Marilyn Horwood, Ruth Sickel and Marylin Mathis are assisting with the project.

A reminder: a "get to know you" coffee with Dianne Stephens will be held on Thurs. March 27th in the Education Studio. All APD, APW and FLD's are welcome. The coffee precedes a lecture at 3:30 by artist Allan McCollum.

Dianne Maffia held a discussion of the upcoming changes in the Bylaws. The Gallery's Office of the Secretary and General Counsel has told us that "...because the volunteer group does not exist separately from the Gallery and does not have a legal framework, there is no requirement that the volunteers have bylaws." So, because docents and volunteers are fully a part of the Gallery within the Division of Education, bylaws are not an appropriate governing document. There is, however, a need for a statement that defines our mission, programs, and standards. Dianne Stephens and Heidi Hinish are drafting a mission statement that will apply to all volunteer committees. From that point each committee will prepare a statement of "standards and procedures" that is specific to their committee and replaces the current Bylaws. Dianne proposed an editing committee of about five volunteers to review the draft and make needed revisions. Then the document will be submitted to all the APD's for comment. The goal is to complete this process in the Fall of 2014.

STAFF REPORT

Wil Scott introduced us to Dianne Stephens, our new Manager of Adult Docent Programs. DS has been with NGA for 17 years, initially in Rusty Powell's office, then becoming Manager for Art Information upon Chris With's retirement. Lynn Russell felt the department needed Diane Arkin on board as a senior lecturer due to the previous departures of other lecturers and Wil Scott's imminent retirement the end of May. Because of a hiring freeze currently in effect, no vacated lecturer position will be replaced at this time.

We will not be accepting tours of the Degas/Cassatt exhibition due to the cul-de-sac nature of the installation. Please refrain from bringing guests, friends or visitors from your regularly scheduled tours into this exhibition.

The Gallery has information about the Corcoran on its website. There is nothing to report outside of that due the tentative nature of the situation. Also, during the 2-year renovation of EB galleries, there will be time to think about "best practices". Wil anticipates that a study group will be formed to look at best practices regarding the docent program; this should not be read as a signal that the program is ending.

The General Counsel has determined that our Bylaws (see above) are not legally binding and probably not necessary. Wil indicated that they appear to be clumsy and in some instances have even impeded progress.

Dianne Stephens told us something of her previous experience before coming to NGA. She has worked at the City Art Museum of St. Louis, the Dallas Museum of Art, and the Oklahoma City Contemporary Art Center. Much of this has been in connection with educational programs and docents.

Regarding the East Building Sculpture tour, Dianne indicated that we should submit a short outline for the tour and that we will likely proceed with group validations. The expectation is to have this in place by Memorial Day weekend.

The 10:30 weekday West Building tour will be back on the docket in June.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Béla Demeter took a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting (December 4, 2013); the motion was seconded and the minutes were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Deb Pietras reported that the balance at our December meeting was \$1779.14. Income from dues (\$120) and expenses (\$210.20 - holiday gift basket, memorial gift, Spring lunch deposit) brought our current balance to \$1688.94. Three docents remain unpaid. Dues (\$30) can be paid by check to: "NGA Adult Docent Program". Please send remittance to Deb Pietras at: 10210, Oxfordshire Road, Great Falls, VA 22066.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Len Coburn mentioned that many Dutch works will be highlighted in gallery talks this summer and that the online catalogue for the Dutch art will be available as of April 24th, 2014.

BOOK DISCUSSION REPORT

The book club will meet on May 15th at Dianne Maffia's house. Please RSVP Betty Sullivan by May 7th if you plan to attend. The book is *Bernard Berenson: A Life in the Picture Trades* (Rachel Cohen, 2013).

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Anne Marie Marenburg told us that Diane Maffia and Marilyn Mathis will continue in their respective posts of Chair and vice-Chair. Stephenie Frasher and Olga Kushner have accepted nominations for Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. Votes on these nominations will take place at the next committee meeting on May 21st.

ENRICHMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Stephenie Frasher and Carol Bellonby reported that on Tuesday, April 29, Noon we have been offered a private tour by Curator Joan Oshinsky of the Walter E. Washington Convention Center Art Collection, whose \$4 million art collection is the largest in any convention center and the largest public art collection in the District outside of a museum. See flyer for more information. Lunch to follow tour at 2:00 pm at Zaytinya, 701 9th St, NW, Washington, DC. Please RSVP Stephenie: stephfrash@comcast.net by April 15.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Marilyn Mathis informed us that the Spring Luncheon will be held on, Thursday, May 22, Noon, at the Old Ebbitt Grill (675 15th St, NW – close to Metro Center). We have reserved the private lower level Cabinet Room. Cost is \$25 per docent. RSVP to Marilyn (mgmmjm@gmail.com) by April 30. Please send remittance to Deb Pietras (address above) by the same date and make out the check out to NGA, Adult Docent Program.

The next APD Committee meeting is scheduled for May 21, 2014. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Béla Demeter, Secretary