

**National Gallery of Art
The Council Meeting
Meeting Notes
November 29, 2012**

Members present:

Irene Bortolussi	Anne Marie Marenburg	Wil Scott
Jennifer Cross	Patricia Martin	Joyce Schwartz
Liz Diament	Ann Marie Plubell	Dianne Stephens
Heidi Hinish	Arlette Raspberry	Diedre Tillery
Marta Horgan	Lynn Russell	Joan Zeizel
Audrey Kramer	Cathy Ryan	

Members absent:

Diane Arkin
Virginia Flavin
Sally Hoffman
Dianne Maffia
Deirdre Palmer
Michele Sutton
Maria Elena Weissman

Welcome

Chairman Anne Marie Marenburg called the meeting to order at 10:40 am.

Lynn Russell

- *East Building interior renovation:* There is no further information regarding details of the East Building renovation. No special exhibitions are scheduled in the East Building from October 2013 through the end of 2015.
- *Michelangelo sculpture to be exhibited:* In celebration of the Year of Italy, masterpieces are being loaned by the Italian government to art institutions around the world. The non-finito *Apollo/ David* by Michelangelo will be displayed in Gallery 11 from December 13 through early March.
- *Kaufman Collection:* Seeing that *Masterpieces of American Furniture from the Kaufman Collection* will be on extended view, it would be nice if a visit to the exhibit would be incorporated on American Art tours.
- *Sculpture Garden brochures:* Paper brochures have not been used in the Sculpture Garden for a period of time. Several options for how to share information have been discussed. The Gallery may use QR codes (Quick Response codes) as a way to disseminate information about works of art in the Sculpture Garden.
- *Education technologist:* Dana Allen-Greil, an education technologist, joined the education staff on November 5. Her duties include making the department more electronically efficient and assisting in digital outreach. Among new initiatives, she will devise ways of giving typical in-gallery experiences a web presence.
- *Art Information messenger bags:* New blue messenger bags stenciled with large white question marks have been designed and are about to be ordered for the art information program. The bags, to be carried by roving Art Information volunteers, will be stocked with maps, guides, highlight sheets, etc. Visitors can approach the Art Information volunteer with questions or the volunteer can help people who appear to be in need of guidance.
- *Bookmarks:* It was confirmed that more bookmarks are being produced.

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Old Business

OTUS

Liz Diament and Dianne Stephens collected questions in relation to Outside, Tours that are Unregistered and Self-guided (OTUS). The questions were submitted to Robert Rule, Deputy Chief of Security. In response to the question, "what should I do if I see someone touching a work of art," Rule said that it is acceptable for any NGA staff member or volunteer to intervene and voice concerns to a visitor who is touching a work of art. The staff or volunteer should then follow up with security. Rule noted that the patron attempting to harm the Gauguin painting was restrained by a visitor from England until security was able to arrive.

Other comments regarding OTUS:

- The questions and answers compiled by Liz and Dianne will be posted on the Volunteer Website.
- Despite the fact that we do not provide outside adult groups with materials, Lynn said it would be nice to have statistics about who is coming to the Gallery.
- Unguided school groups who register their tours with Jennifer are provided with information.
- Lynn suggested that we contact organizations that bring adult groups to the Gallery (e.g., Alliance Française, the Italian Cultural Institute, major tour groups, etc.) and provide them with information regarding guidelines for OTUS.
- Liz and Dianne are working on a "do not touch" postcard to be handed out to OTUS at each Gallery entrance. It was suggested that one side of the card have a picture of an artwork from the collection. On the reverse would be the international symbol for "do not touch" and general information including the caveat that outside tours should yield to gallery lead school and adult tours.

Meeting Minutes

Chairs are requested to distribute the link of the Council Minutes on the NGA Volunteers website to their respective groups and encourage people to read them. The purpose of having them on line is so that everyone can access the same information at any time. It is always beneficial to repeat information at meetings or in interim communications.

By Laws Amendment

Per Article VI, Section B of the Bylaws, "The Docent Council shall hold regular meetings, no fewer than four per year." It was motioned that we revise the By Laws to simply state that it shall hold regular meetings without specifying the number of times.

Motioned: Diedre Tillery

Seconded: Joyce Schwartz.

Voice vote: Unanimous

Action Item:

- Lynn Russell will check with the legal department regarding this proposed amendment.

Mission Statement

A call went out for someone to assume the Chair position of the Mission Statement sub-committee. The current members of this committee are: Michelle Sutton (AIV), Dianne Maffia (APD), Diedre Tillery (APW), Maria Elena Weissman (FLD), Ann Marie Plubell (DC school docent), Audrey Kramer (Maryland school docent), and Cathy Ryan (Virginia school docent).

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Post meeting, Dianne Maffia has volunteered to serve as Chair of this sub-committee.

Follow up action item:

A draft will be presented to the Council at our March 13th meeting for discussion.

Meetings in 2013

It was motioned to cancel the January 9th meeting. The next meeting will be March 13th. A fourth meeting will be held will be in late April or early May 2013.

Motioned: Diedre Tillery

Seconded: Cathy Ryan

Voice vote: 18 yes, 1 nay

New Business

Deirdre Palmer is working with Housekeeping to improve the housekeeping situation in these the West Building volunteer lounge and in M-118 (the West Building school docent storage space).

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Volunteer Council is scheduled for Wednesday, March 13, 10:30 am.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:32.

Respectfully submitted by Cathy Ryan