

Council Meeting Agenda

29 January 2014

In attendance:

Ann Marie Plubell

Wil Scott

Katherine Gottschalk

Cathy Ryan

Arlette Raspberry

Dierdre Palmer

Jennifer Cross

Liz Diament

Heidi Hinish

Elizabeth Billings

Katy Senkus

Marta Horgan

Marina Bradfield

Maria Amelia Ramaciotti

Dianne Maffia

Dianne Stephens

Susan Lewis

Michele Sutton

Virginia Flavin

Marylin Mathis

1. Welcome/Introductions 5 Minutes

Michele Sutton called the meeting to order at 10:40AM.

2. Gallery Updates 10 Minutes (Including Questions)

Liz Diament, presented an update of the Gallery's plans for the Twentieth Century Collection no longer on view in the EB.

The Lower Level of the WB in and around the area of G-39 will become exhibition space for paintings and sculpture from the 20th C. Collection. The paintings available for view in this area will be posted on the Gallery website. Until then it is a work -in-progress as to exactly which works will be on exhibition.

Even as these works are no longer exhibited in the EB, Wil Scott cautioned that we should all be careful with the terminology used when speaking of the EB. Plans for the entrance level of the EB will be the installation of sculptural pieces for public view. While most of the "galleries" or exhibition spaces will be "closed" or unavailable for public view, the building will be open.

Wil Scott also mentioned that the budget resolution passed recently to prevent a complete shut-down of the government as was experienced in fall of 2013, will also it seems allow for some easing of severe budget restrictions, especially related to hiring plans. There is at this moment no certainty about exactly how much "loosening " up of these strictures there will be, but everyone is hopeful.

3. By-Law/Guidelines Discussion 30 Minutes

Heidi Hinish was tasked by Lynn Russell, who was unable to attend today's meeting, to present a summary of the Education Department's vision for the all the issues around the By-Laws/Guideline discussions that were tabled last year for lack of time and complete information. In the interim, Lynn Russell consulted with the legal staff of the Gallery and was given the following assessment of the By-laws and their relevancy:

"Because the volunteer groups do not exist separately from the Gallery and do not have a legal framework, there is no requirement that the volunteers have by-laws."

On the basis of this information, the Gallery staff suggests that while much in the By-laws is helpful other parts were not. The strict legalese of the language and structure of By-Laws did not properly reflect the important relationship of the Volunteers and the Gallery staff. In many instances it became cumbersome and served as an impediment for some organizational and operational expansions and new ideas. The Gallery is thoroughly committed to its volunteer corps and while it sees that another strategy for documentation may be beneficial, it wishes to accommodate the ideas and thinking of it all volunteer members.

After much lively discussion relating to historical context and the role that guidelines play in the operation of the School Docent and Art Information programs, it was decided that an Ad Hoc Committee should be formed. This committee will work to produce an overarching

document that offers clarity and continuity for the Gallery and its relationship with all its volunteer groups: APDs, APW, FLDs, School Docents and Art Information. This document would replace the By-Laws. It will then be up to each group to establish and publish its own set of pertinent "guidelines" and/or "roles and responsibilities." All of this effort will be in partnership with and will require final approval from the NGA staff. The focus would be around such issues as training, qualifications, time commitments and how each group is organized, i.e., officers, number and time of meetings. This would give each group more flexibility in making any needed adjustments to its programs as possibly required by new or different circumstances.

Initial volunteers for this the Ad Hoc Committee were as follows:

Michelle Sutton - Art Information

Dianne Stephens - Staff

Dianne Maffia, APD

Nominees from the School Docents and APW will be forth coming.

In conclusion, Wil Scott stated that everyone should be assured that this process will succeed and that the Gallery and its volunteer groups have always acted in good faith with each other and that this will continue as we move forward.

The Council hopes to have a draft document by June 1 for both volunteers and Staff to consider.

4. Docent Lounge Upkeep

10 Minutes

After some discussion around making the Docent Lounge more hospitable, it was proposed that everyone report to Katherine Gottschalk the lack of consistent housekeeping when they see it.

It was also proposed by Diane Maffia, chair of the APDs, that each volunteer group provide tea+ in the Lounge and maintain the bulletin board on a rotating basis in line with the Council rotation schedule. Dianne volunteered to take on this effort for remainder of this year. However, Katy Senkus, VA School Docent Committee Chair, in considering comments from others, volunteered to make signs for the Lounge urging the removal of items from the bulletin board after 6 months by those posting the items and the replacement of tea and other supplies by the users. It was decided to try this self-policing route for the remainder of this year instead of the rotation proposal. This issue will be revisited in the fall to assess the success of and/or the desire to revise this plan.

5. Wrap-Up

5 Minutes

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45AM.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Virginia Flavin