

January 12, 2022

Members Present: Darlene Klister, Terry MacDonald, Todd Young

Staff Present: Jonn Lunsford

Guests Present: Diane Marr, Nancy Vaughn

Called to order: 4:04pm

Welcome Todd to the first meeting as a commissioner!

Minutes: Minutes from December unanimously approved as submitted

Public Comments: none

Terry put out a call for our current 98221 Gallery artists to join the meeting and speak about their work. Diane and Nancy joined today.

Diane Marr is back in Anacortes for the second time, after a short time away. While away, she started painting and exploring the art world. She has always appreciated the arts and supporting arts in the community resonates with her.

Nancy Vaughn is new to Anacortes, previously living in Hawaii where she was a member of the Hawaiian Watercolor Society. She is interested to learn about the local art scene in Anacortes.

Terry gave a report on the 98221 Gallery Showing. It has been going well and had several sales including a wooden bowl and a couple paintings. When a piece is sold, the artist has been invited to bring in another piece for display. At this time there is not a scheduled reception due to Covid. That is on hold for now. Advertising and getting the word out has been through social media posting, with the potential for another article in the paper. There was one printed right after Christmas and was wonderful. There have not been many people out and about due to the snow, holidays and Covid but hoping for more traffic soon. Board members agreed to wait for any reception. This showing has spotlighted many new artists, some with this being their first show. The art has provided a great representation of our community.

Todd asked about how the call went out for artists. Terry mentioned that she had posted to several online artist groups, Facebook, and the newspaper and she is open to any new ways to reach artists. It was mentioned to advertise in the Clam Digger.

Todd spoke about his connection to local art and with the Anacortes Music Project. AMP has a monthly publication that features an artist on the cover. AMP is in its fifth year and continues to grow. They host three big events each year: music at Causland park during Shipwreck days, AMP fest is the 1st Saturday in September and the Yule Bizarre in December at the Depot. There are other little events throughout the year and they hope to have a presence in town with a building or storefront. The goal of Anacortes Music Project is to amplify music and musicians in Anacortes. He is excited to be a liaison between both AMP and the Arts Commission. AMP has a visual artist at their events and would like to expand and integrate the visual and music arts.

The board agreed that it is wonderful to have another dimension of art represented on the commission.

MOA: Lisa was not in attendance so this was postponed until the next meeting.

Other Business:

Terry reported she has spoken with Karl from Anacortes Senior Activity Center. He reached out to Terry to see about setting up mini artist tours for seniors. The goal would be to showcase several mediums with a self-guided tour of groups of 6 or so with 4 studios in a day. Transportation would not be provided by the Center. This activity would be like the previous studio tour but in smaller groups and focused on seniors. Masks would be required and access/stairs may need to be addressed.

Jon spoke about how this would help some of our community members who are experiencing isolation and creating excitement about art and activity. The timeframe discussed was late spring due to getting through this Covid surge. The goal of ASAC is to engage as comfort allows, an example being the seated yoga class with some people in person and others on zoom. Isolation leads to depression and anxiety and any classes or activities help combat that.

Terry spoke about the movement and desire that Anacortes would be one of the creative districts in the state. At this time the Arts festival and Fidalgo Dance are leading this. Terry and Todd will both be attending the next meeting and will report back. It was suggested that maybe the commission could help with a part of this by participating in a smaller way.

Jon spoke about the N Avenue park being renamed Q'elech'ilhch Park which translates into "Ironwood" or Ironwood Village. The parks department will be working with the Samish Nation to develop this park. There will be an art installation at the park but it will not be a juried art process. Virtual meetings are being held with the Samish Nation due to Covid. One idea spoken about is a long house with signage about how the village came to be. Todd asked about a speaker on a loop being integrated into the art, maybe featuring traditional music. He mentioned that we have a company in town who could make the speaker waterproofing-Aquarian Audio.

Jon reported that signage for the Bobo statue, in the Pickett Pockett Park by Penguin coffee, is in process. He is meeting with Brad from Sign Dog to get that finalized and in production.

Jon asked about the call to artists for the Madrona grove. The board thought they were possibly looking at February or March, but if that is the case, we need to move soon. There is the possibility to have Mary Snyder come in to help with this process.

Thanks were expressed to guests for joining the meeting. Diane and Nancy enjoyed the invite and would like to chat directly with any commission member about their experience serving on the board. Jon guided them to the website for contact information for the board members.

Meeting adjourned at 4:29pm

The NEXT MEETING will be held on Wednesday, February 09, 2022, at 4:00 PM, virtually.