

Mountain Artists Guild Annual Membership Meeting
Meeting Minutes
November 30, 2023

1. Call to order. **Robert called the meeting to order at 4:11 pm.**
2. Roll Call. Present: Robert Dooley - Board President, Heather Leavitt - Board Treasurer, Linda Vick, Dale O'Dell, Niki Simonson, Kim Hart - Executive Director, Mary Lou Arnold - Staff, Rebecca Kriz - Staff, 24 additional Guild members, Guests: Leslie Jacobs and Jen Group (realtor team)
 - Establishment of a quorum to conduct business
 - Confirmed that a 10% minimum of Guild membership was present
3. Discussion:
 - Mold Report
 - High Desert Home Inspections conducted a thorough mold report recently
 - Studio 3 was the only location mold was found and remains closed
 - Introduction of Leslie (realtor) and Jen (marketing director)
 - Introduction and discussion of potential sale of the building
 - Between \$250-350,000 of repairs are needed on the current building
 - Kim will send a link for membership to vote about the sale of the building and will add a summary of necessary building repairs
 - Vote will close on December 5th
 - Presentation - Proposal to sell the building
 - Leslie emphasizes the need for “refresh” and “renew” of the Guild
 - Leslie will ensure that the Guild has a home in between the sale of the current building and moving to another. Options include lease back from the buyer and getting a longer escrow.
 - Committee Reports
 - Gallery - working on extending the number of yearly shows to 12
 - Fund Development - a \$21,500 grant will be coming our way soon
 - Education - schedules adult classes, veterans' art, and children's art
 - adult art class sign ups have dropped and class cancellations are happening – Committee wants feedback from members on what types of classes they want to take.
 - Building & Grounds - HVAC was recently replaced; committee is on hiatus while we wait for the decision on the sale of the building
 - Library & Admin (and hospitality) - needs more membership
 - Treasurer's Report
 - Guild is operating at a loss most months and overall in 2023
 - This mirrors the trends of 2022
 - Gallery sales have been very low
 - Income from festivals has decreased due to increased county fees

- State of the Guild
 - Kim is beginning a capital campaign
 - Seeking monetary donations
 - Seeking new membership
 - Streamlining processes

- 4. New Business:
 - Action Items
 - Election of board members
 - Call for nominations
 - Jim nominates Dale O'Dell for Vice President – Dale declines the nomination.
 - **Votes for the Board have been tallied and the membership has voted Robert Dooley as Board President, Heather Leavitt as Board Treasurer, and Robert Strain and Niki Simonson as Members at Large.**

- 5. Motion to Adjourn
 - **Heather motions to adjourn, Dale seconds. Motion passes, 6-0.**

Meeting adjourned at 5:26 pm.



**The Mountain Artists Guild
Annual Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2022**

Meeting called to order at 4:05 pm

Board Members Present: Barbie Jensen, President; Robert Dooley, Barbara Nelson, Dale O'Dell, Nicole Sorenson, Linda Vick, Directors at Large

Board Members Absent: Kristine Dutton, Secretary

Staff Members Present: Andre Lewis, Executive Director
Mary Lou Arnold, Gallery Associate

Quorum established

Barbara Nelson agreed to take minutes for this meeting.

Welcome to members by Barbie Jensen.

Committee updates: by Andre Lewis and Barbie Jensen

Education

Adult classes in 2022 - 16 held with 166 attendees, Youth Workshops - 5 held with 81 attendees, Veterans Art - 13 sessions, 73 attendees through October, increase class size this week with outreach. Currently scheduling for first quarter 2023, goal of 2 sessions per month for adult education, increasing offerings from 16 to 24 for next year.

Building and Grounds

This year we fixed locks on multiple doors, set up volunteer schedules to help with landscaping needs, replaced breaker panel in basement, repaired water damage in Yavapai Symphony office. Roof was re-evaluated and is deemed okay for another 2 or 3 years.

Gallery Committee

Streamlined intake process, moved feature wall, established updated gallery standards for frames and hanging to assist and educate members regarding "gallery-ready" presentation of works. Connected with Yavapai College to secure judges for shows. Themes for next year are published online. Secured outside venues for showcasing art at Cuppers Coffee House, which was successful for our artists, but the

business closed both locations. Founding Fathers pop up shows are by invitation. Reinstated a volunteer requirement or “buyout of \$25” to participate in shows for 2023 due to a decrease in volunteerism. Total of \$26,000 paid out to artists this year to date from gallery sales.

Fund Development

Donor Levels were approved by the committee and Board in May, but Direct Mail campaign did not happen until October, resulting in \$2835 in donations, for total individual giving of \$9086 YTD. Book sales rack is in gallery. Grants for 2022 total \$20,357. Gala event was cancelled for 2022 due to inadequate advance planning.

Membership and Outreach

Total of 255 paid memberships, increased from 241 last year, with additional lifetime and partner memberships for a total of 301 members. Outreach is working on presentations about the Guild for groups to describe our history and mission. Need more volunteers for membership subcommittee, consider resuming new member orientation sessions when we have volunteers to do so.

Financial Review - Barbie Jensen

The good news: Festivals were nearly sold out this year, with net income of \$56,000. Gallery income to the Guild is about \$18,000 from fees and commissions YTD. Payroll has been pared down; we have over \$200,000 cash on hand and show assets greater than \$500,000 on the Balance Sheet.

The bad news: Festival income is down from previous years; expenses have increased for the festivals, particularly due to increase in County fees. Festivals should not be our main income source. Intake fees for artists will increase to \$25. Staff has been reduced to help mitigate a budget deficit in 2022; volunteers can help defray costs of staff that are no longer at the Guild.

The ugly news: The County is making it very difficult to realize income from events; in fact, they have doubled fees, implemented draconian rules (in 2021 - MAG was fined \$2000; in 2022 there were no fines because of considerable work done by volunteers), and may severely limit corporate sponsorship. While there is information that the county, city, and local businesses profit greatly from Courthouse events, this has not swayed the county from its apparent plan to reduce the use of the Courthouse for events.

Tabulation of Votes

Board positions other than Vice-President have been filled. New Board members are: President - Barbie Jensen; Secretary - Kristine Dutton; Treasurer - Barbara Nelson; Directors at Large - Robert Dooley, Dale O'Dell, Nicole Sorenson, Linda Vick

Revised Bylaws are approved by Membership vote.

Acknowledgement of Volunteers

Andre Lewis recognized volunteers who have gone over and above in their support of the guild:

Carol & Herb Miller, Larry Wolterstorff, Carol Ribley, Wendy Smith-Rogers, Chris Sommerfelt, Susan Baltzer, Maddie Reynolds, Kathy Kramer, Joan Eberhardt, Robert Strain, Patricia Watkins

Members Question & Answer

Q: Did MAG receive any Covid funds?

A: Yes; a loan of over \$30,800, which was forgiven and therefore was counted in 2021 as income to the Guild, and what is essentially a grant of another \$15,000. These partly offset the losses of 2020 (during which the festivals were cancelled, Gallery was closed yet full staff payroll continued).

Q: Has there been a comparison done at the county level to justify fees/rule changes, and whether they are reasonable and/or comparable to other locations?

A: No; fee structure and rules changes seem arbitrary and were implemented at a county supervisors' meeting with little or no notice and approved "as no one was there to object." The city tracked demographics of event attendees (where they come from, where they stayed, where they ate, income levels, money spent) and found that a day event results in \$86 in revenue per attendee, and an overnight event (which the county is trying to discourage) resulted in \$250 per attendee, for a total of some \$54 Million.

Q: Has there been an effort to get the county to change the fees/rules?

A: Yes; by many groups including MAG; the county has to date chosen not to make any adjustments. A letter writing campaign was effective to keep the county from changing the fee structure during Covid; there was a suggestion that another

letter writing effort be made by individuals. Members requested a sample letter to send to our district representative - Oberg.

Q: Is there unity among other entities to attempt to get the county to change?

A: Yes; even the Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Board recognize the harm the county policies will do.

Q: Are we committed to an event in 2023?

A: No; we are on the schedule for our standard dates in May and August, but per Andre, there is no commitment until a contract is signed.

Q: Who will supervise the events now that the PDP (Prescott Downtown Partnership, the entity currently responsible for events), may back out?

A: The county plans to hire a manager in April who will have that responsibility.

Other

Andre will organize training classes on the Ricochet Consignment software for volunteers. Plans are to train some consignors to enter their own inventory - a 20-minute job for the member, but an hours long task for staff/volunteers. Andre also plans to have social get-togethers for members by interest group. Chris Sommerfelt asked for input for the Education Committee future planning.

Art supplies have been donated and may be taken by members - a donation jar is in the library. MAG's 990 tax returns are public information and can be accessed online; 2021 filing was done this week.

MAG has been invited to apply for a \$10,000 grant for a mural being planned along the Granite Creek Trail - the section between Gurley and Willis behind Granite Street. Barbara Nelson will be giving a brief presentation of the mural project at the Board meeting on December 7, 2022.

With no further questions, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Barbara Nelson, Director at Large