

# ART GALLERY OF NORTHUMBERLAND

Meeting of the Board of Directors Thursday, December 17, 2020  
via Video Conference at 4:00 p.m.

*Engaging People with Art!*

**Executive Committee:** Mary Donaldson, President and Chair; Astrid Richardsen, Vice-President; Frank Godfrey, Treasurer;

**Directors:** Kenneth Bagshaw; Michael Machon; Michael Maynard; Dimitri Papatheodorou; Ken Solilo.

**Town of Cobourg:** Councillor Adam Bureau.

**Staff:** Olinda Casimiro, Executive Director.

**Recording Secretary:** Toni Galea.

**Absent:** Sarah Jacob, Secretary.

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## 1. Welcome

The Board Meeting was called to order at 4:03 pm by the President.

## 2. Adoption of the Agenda.

The agenda was adopted as circulated.

**Moved** by Astrid Richardsen and seconded by Michael Maynard. *Carried.*

## 3. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no Conflicts of Interest declared.

## 4. Approval of Minutes, November 19, 2020

The minutes of November 19 were approved with two amendments:

1. Under 6(b) Finance & Audit section, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph: Olinda reviewed the AGN lease with the Town of Cobourg Treasurer Ian Davey. Currently rent payment is made by cheque over the year for a total of \$45,000. The lease, which is up for renewal on December 31, 2022 notes that that rent is \$1 per year. Town of Cobourg Treasure Ian Davey has agreed that we abandoned cheque exchange and follow the provisions of the lease. • Councillor Bureau noted that 2022 is an election year and suggested that the lease agreement discussion be added to the MOU discussion. Most terms noted in the lease are not related to budget considerations, but rather operational.
2. Under 6 (b) last paragraph: Moved that the budget be accepted with the town grant amount being increased to \$185K and with a consequential increase in the area of digital content and learning.

**Moved** by Ken Bagshaw and seconded by Astrid Richardsen. *Carried.*

## 5. Treasurer's Report - Frank Godfrey.

At November month end the AGN is at 89% of income and 76% of expenses. It is anticipated that the accumulated deficit will be eliminated this year. Eliminating the deficit was one of the Gallery's goals for 2020 and Frank reiterated that the Executive Director's management was key in realizing this goal.

The Board accepted the November Treasurer's report.

## **6. Executive Director's Report - Olinda Casimiro**

As the Board reviewed the Executive Director's report prior to the Board Meeting, she did not review it in detail. The ED did note that the AGN will close of the year in a good position and will strive to continue on that same path in 2021. The Ontario Trillium Foundation Resiliency Grant was approved in the full amount. Activities at the AGN are winding down for the holidays, but remain busy with a new installation. The juried exhibition was a success selling seven works and overall feedback from the exhibition has been positive. There will be a sculpture show in January. AGN staff pitched an idea for the static holiday float competition put on by the Town and were awarded \$1K to create a float. It was a true team collaboration creating the "Miracle on King Street" float position in front of the Library.

## **7. Committees**

### **a) Executive – Mary Donaldson**

Mary presented the ED Evaluation report outlining the process the Executive Committee used. The report concluded that in spite of the difficulties caused by the pandemic, the AGN had a successful year due to the diligence, energy, knowledge and perseverance of the ED. On the negative side, meaningful personal contact with members of the AGN and with the general public has suffered because of government rules and regulation. Mary stated that if the Board wished to discuss the report the meeting will go in camera. No one wished to discuss.

### **b) Finance and Audit - Kenneth Bagshaw**

Olinda and Ken presented the AGN Budget to the Town Council on December 8<sup>th</sup>. During the presentation Ken emphasized the importance of the AGN to the community. Olinda walked through the elements of the 2020 budget with the COVID-19 experience and spoke about the AGN's digital transformation. Two Councillors commented on the Northumberland reach of the AGN and posed the question of whether the AGN has gone to the County for funds as well. There is a perception that the County has funds to disperse to organization. Olinda will provide a document in support of the AGN's activities to assist Councillor Bureau at the January budget meeting. The Deputy Mayor did comment that funds were taken out of HOLDCO in the past two years, which have lowered HOLDCO's reserves. In preparation for the January budget meeting, Councillor Bureau will be sending questions to the Board so that he will be well prepared for the budget meeting.

Currently there are 325 Members and 750 Newsletter Subscribers.

A question was posed on what is the investment in the arts in various municipalities. It was noted the Master Cultural Plan does contain those statistics. A substantive tourism study will be taken on by the County and a statement from the County could be obtained on how important the AGN is to the County.

The Financial and Audit Committee held a meeting with RBC Dominion Security, who are custodians of the Duane Schermerhorn Endowment. The purpose of the meeting was to get acquainted and discuss an investment strategy for the \$36K in holdings.

### **c) Acquisitions – Mary Donaldson**

- Valued at \$15,000, Evan Penny *L-Faux Colour # 1*, 2000 large format Crystal archive C-print (A/P 1/1?) photograph of Libby.

Accepted into the AGN permanent collection.

**Moved** by Ken Bagshaw and seconded by Frank Godfrey. *Carried.*

- Valued at \$7,830, Frances Ferdinand painting "STANDARDS", acrylic and mixed media diptych Accepted into the AGN permanent collection.

**Moved** by Ken Bagshaw and seconded by Frank Richardsen. *Carried.*

The Acquisitions Committee held their first meeting on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. The first order of business will be adopting a frame of reference and guidelines for the Committee. The Committee will meet quarterly with the next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Appraiser, Kenneth Forsyth presented a program to the volunteers on December 1<sup>st</sup>, describing how a work of art is evaluated and the credentials a professional appraiser must have. The PowerPoint presentation will be added to the Board portal.

## **8. Task forces**

### **a) Fund Raising – Frank Godfrey**

A single donor had been approached for the AGN hardwood floor project and some time was given for the donor to consider the request. Unfortunately, the donor declined indicating the many priorities during these COVID-19 times. This fundraising strategy will be revised and reported upon during the next AGN meeting.

## **9. New Business**

### **Strategic Plan**

A two to three year Strategic plan is a priority for the AGN. A Strategic Plan Task Force Committee was struck made up of Mary Donaldson, Astrid Richardsen and Olinda Casimiro. They will research organizations who might work with the AGN on a strategic plan.

**Moved** by Frank Godfrey and seconded by Dimitri Papatheodorou. *Carried.*

The committee will report back to the Board in January.

## **10. Remarks from Chair**

Mary announced that Toni Galea has received a promotion and increased duties with her new position means she can no longer serve as the AGN Board Recording Secretary. Mary thanked Toni for her outstanding work and the other Members of the Board thanked her and wished her well.

## **11. Post Mortems/Discussions/Brainstorming**

Dimitri is working with architect students in their four year to focus on northern Northumberland County and rural architecture.

## **12. Date of Next Meeting – January 21, 2021**

## **13. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:49 p.m.