

ART GALLERY OF NORTHUMBERLAND

Meeting Minutes of the Board of Directors Wednesday, April 7, 2021 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; Sarah Jacob, Secretary

Directors: Michael Machon; Michael Maynard; Dimitri Papatheodorou; Ken Solilo;

Town of Cobourg: Councillor Adam Bureau

Staff: Olinda Casimiro, Executive Director

Recording Secretary: Alyssa Bevan

Guests: Sheila Drew; Cynthia Reyes

Regrets: Kenneth Bagshaw;

1. **Welcome**

The Board Meeting was called to order at 4:06 pm by the President.

Astrid introduced guests Sheila Drew and Cynthia Reyes who spoke about their backgrounds.

Mary asked everyone to introduce themselves.

2. **Adoption of the Agenda.**

Moved by Dimitri Papatheodorou and seconded by Michael Maynard. *Carried*

3. **Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

4. **Approval of Minutes, March 17, 2021**

The minutes were adopted as circulated.

Moved by Astrid Richardsen and seconded by Dimitri Papatheodorou. *Carried*

5. **Treasurer's Report –**

Frank Godfrey reported that after the first quarter of the year we are at 29% of the budget income and 26% of expenses, indicating that we are meeting our targets.

The Board accepted Frank's report.

6. **Executive Director's Report –**

Olinda Casimiro reported that as of April 2, with the provincial Stay at Home Order, the gallery is closed until further notice. Olinda will be at the gallery one day a week.

Avery, Erin and Lindsay have completed their contracts and Lindsay has been given an extended short term contract that will run until the end of year.

Olinda reminded of the Strategic Planning process with the first meeting on April 14.

Civic Awards postponed to end of May.

Olinda's mentorship with Artsbuild Ontario is continuing.

The AGN is the recipient of the Ontario Society of Artists Cleeve Horne Purchase Award.

The new Grapevine magazine has a two page spread featuring Amy Shackleton and Joan Scaglione. Amy Shackleton was interviewed on CBC radio showcase and her work on social media has over 150,00 hits.

Our social media presence continues to grow, especially our Instagram presence.

Olinda has been dealing with computer challenges.

There will be a Zoom meeting with volunteers tomorrow April 8.

At the end of her report, Olinda featured a piece from our permanent collection, a watercolour and gauche painting of Mrs. MacDougall- Louis XIV, painted in 1866 by Frances Anne Hopkins, who painted under her initials FAH to disguise that the artist was a woman. The AGN received a royalty because this art will be featured in a book about period costume.

Olinda's report was received by the Board.

7. Committees

- a. **Executive** – Mary Donaldson reported that the Executive did not meet this month because the entire Board met in a special informal meeting to discuss our MOU with the Town.
- b. **Finance and Audit** – Michael Machon reported that we have received our Auditor's Report in preparation for AGM and he outlined the highlights of the report. Revenue is up over the last two years; cataloguing of permanent collection was funded by an RBC grant; we have a surplus of \$41,000 indicating strong liquidity; over the last three years the historical deficit has been eliminated and is now showing a surplus; and net assets have doubled in the last three years. Motion to accept the Report of the Auditor for circulation to the Members at the AGM
Moved by Frank Godfrey and seconded by Sarah Jacob. *Carried*
- c. **Nominations** – Astrid Richardsen thanked Frank and Ken Solilo for their work on the committee and expressed her pleasure at the final decisions.

8. Task forces

- a. **Fund Raising** – tabled
- b. **Strategic Plan**

First meeting will be held next week, on April 14 at 4:00 pm..

9. Old Business

- a. **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Town of Cobourg**

Olinda reported that she worked with Michael Machon and Ken Bagshaw to update sections of the MOU. She went page by page over the document highlighting the changes we need to fine tune and the wording which needed to be changed to proper terms. She provided information about the positives that we bring to the Town. We feel lease and MOU should be an agreement and accepted together as one document since quite a large section of the MOU belongs to lease agreement. Adam stated that it was crucial that AGN bring their needs to the Town. We

should include what we want to change and what we want to add. Olinda pointed to the paragraph that states that we are in a surplus situation and Board oversight will ensure that the AGN in an accumulated asset position during the term of this MOU.

AGM Saturday April 24, 2021 AGM planning discussion.

Hannah DeGeer offered to be moderator. Mary will contact Hannah and make arrangements for a computer and the suitable Zoom plan. The AGM package must go out to the Members on Friday April 9 and everything is ready. Mary requested that everyone send a short biography to Astrid for the slate that will be presented to the Members for their approval. Dimitri will present a description of the recent acquisitions to the Permanent Collection

10. Post Mortems/Discussions/Brainstorming

AGN Focus: Community

Olinda read a thank-you letter of appreciation from a family who visited the gallery while we were open. Bird house fund raiser by the Volunteer Committee is complete. It made money and was a lot of fun. Dimitri will be speaking about his art practice to the Volunteer Committee at the meeting tomorrow. Dimitri is applying for a grant from Canada Council for another series of interviews. Olinda will write a letter in support of the project. Spotlight Series is applying for Ontario Arts Council grant. The series will comprise of 3 musicians and 3 painters, with 3 being aboriginal. They are considering venues and aiming to launch the first weekend in June. Some of the planned sponsorship is signed. Olinda invited everyone to come and see the Amy Shackleton mural when we are allowed into the gallery. Westben has informally contacted us, interested in some type of a partnership. Olinda reported that we will be partnering with *Let's Talk Books* bookstore form a book club. Cobourg Ecology Garden is launching a fund raiser and has a video about the creation of the community managed garden. Ken Solilo reported that Spirit of the Hills Studio Tour application deadline is next week. AGN happy to promote the function on our social media. A proposal by a group of art and culture organizations for the Brookside property will be sent to David Piccini. The concept is to marry culture with hospitality. The AGN is included in the proposal but our interest is primarily educational. Currently there are too many unknowns about the size and condition of the property. There was some discussion about house tours as a fund-raising vehicle.

- 11. Date of Next Meeting** – Strategic Plan meeting Wednesday April 14 at 4:00 pm.,
AGM April 24 at 1 pm.
Board Meeting 30 minutes after the AGM adjourns, April 24.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned 5:52 pm.