

MINUTES

In attendance: Lorrie Abdo, Don Ashcraft, Susan Badger, Mark DeYoung, Maryellen Hains, Dave Middleton, Vicki VanAmeyden, and Linda Rzoska. Absent: Mindi Bagnall, Anna Ill and Randy Walker.

The purpose of the second meeting was to review and discuss the brainstorming the board did in its first meeting, determine future plans and to focus on the logistics needed to proceed. The following notes reflect what was mentioned and discussed. These minutes serve as a documentation of that meeting.

Meeting started at approximately 6:15 pm

Agenda Items

Review of Minutes from the February 20, 2018 Meeting

The Minutes were reviewed and accepted with no changes.

Mission Statement of Ninth Wave Studio (NWS) Brainstorming

A draft of a mission statement was introduced by Linda Rzoska. Discussion took place, It suggested to find a way to include the concept of "collaboration" in the statement. This idea was accepted as a necessary addition. The following is the newest draft of the mission statement:

The mission of Ninth Wave Studio is to promote, support and nurture the ingenuity and individual growth of the artists of Southwest Michigan by providing collaborative opportunities for exhibitions, creative events, experimentation, practice and dialog.

The board agreed to accept this statement as "preliminary" and open for further discussion.

Concepts of Providing Support for an Artist's Individual Growth and to Promote Ingenuity

The board reviewed the various ways Ninth Wave Studio has supported the Southwest Michigan Arts Community in the past in comparison to future plans of support. Below is a summary of this comparison.

- NWS currently sponsors the Ninth Wave Studio Award in ingenuity in Mixed Media or Intermedia for the annual West Michigan Area Show put on by the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts. Discussion took place of the possibility of sponsoring a 2nd WMAS award for excellence in digital media. It was agreed that it would be a good idea to sponsor each award every other year. Rzoska agreed to contact the KIA.
- In past years NWS averaged participating in 4 Art Hops per year. Discussion took place which resulted in the agreement to increase participation to 6 Art Hops a year to allow more artists opportunities to exhibit and promote their work. It was agreed that NWS will participate in Art Hops during the months of: March, April, May, September, October, and November.

Additional discussion took place regarding future exhibitions and various ways of marketing and promoting the exhibitions and Art Hop openings in order to increase exposure and attendance. Rzoska reported that current marketing and promotion is achieved through NWS Email Blasts, NWS Facebook page, and the Art Hop Brochure. It was suggested that posters should be created to be put up in various coffee houses, etc. - the board agreed that was a good concept to consider.

- In past years NWS averaged facilitating 2 to 5 workshops per year in Encaustic, Drypoint, and Design Discussion. In the February meeting the board agreed to investigate the logistics of the implementation of additional workshops to increase NWS's ability to promote and nurture artists' individual growth by giving additional opportunities for experimentation, practice and discussion. In addition these workshops would help sustain the costs to maintain the Mary Louise House and property.

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Rzoska presented the board with a document of descriptions for 5 possible classes and workshops - along with a floor plan document showing the ground floor of the Mary Louise Haynes House indicating the layout of studio furniture that would be required for 8 students. This second document also listed the implementation goals, fundamental items needed, and in-house supplies needed for the implementation of the 5 classes and workshops.

Board members had comments regarding the fundamental items needed - suggesting alternative places of purchase and possible donation of items. Rzoska said she would investigate. Comments were many regarding the Classes and Workshop document. A workshop in Political Cartooning was suggested, "open studio" sessions were suggested, there were questions about how much the fees would be for the classes and workshops, questions about their length, and questions about who the instructors would be. Rzoska agreed to research and compare fees of similar classes at the KIA, KBAC and the Helen Kleczynski's Art House to determine the length of the workshops and construct fees for NWS. It was suggested that the first workshop should take place in the Fall of 2018.

In addition to the above "comparison" the board reviewed and discussed the following concepts to provide support for an artist's individual growth and to promote ingenuity.

- Implemented the invitational Photosynthesis Project
Rzoska reported that as of March 31st, 14 individuals expressed an interest to be included in the project. Plans are underway for an introductory meeting with the participants.
- establish an "Artist's Society" or Artist's Guild" and have annual "member exhibitions"
It was acknowledged that an arts organization does exist in Kalamazoo known as the Alliance of Kalamazoo Artists. It was suggested to learn more about this organization. Vicki VanAmeijden agreed to contact Sue Caufield who is a member of said organization.
- provide and promote "Salons" for discussion and the critique of artists' work.
The board agreed that establishing "Salons" would directly support the mission of NWS. A Fall 2018 start date was suggested with a Salon session occurring once a week.
- establish and lead creative excursions (2019 Ireland Landscape Immersion, etc)
Rzoska reported that she has received results from her inquiries regarding booking an entire B&B and a private bus driver for an Ireland Immersion for Creatives. The excursion is limited to 13 individuals. Approximated B&B costs for 13 participants for 10 nights + pick up and delivery to and from Shannon Airport + 6 over the road excursions = 865 Euros (\$1055 by the exchange rate as of 040518). This amount does not include the cost of entrance fees or ferry fees (approximate cost for these is 175 Euros (\$ 220 by the exchange rate as of 040518). It was agreed that interested board members contact Rzoska.

This concept lead to the suggestion and discussion of bringing in "visiting artists" for possible residencies and exhibitions.
- mentoring sessions for emerging artists that would consist of "the business of art" workshops, critiques, etc.
The board agreed that establishing mentoring sessions for emerging artists would directly support the mission of NWS. Discussion did not take place due to the lateness of the hour.
- pursue Denise Lisiecki's concept of partnering with the KIA.
Discussion did not take place due to the lateness of the hour.

Meeting adjourned around 8:20 pm