

Members Attending:

Jane, Liz, Nick, Rob, Cathy, Jo-Ann, Pasqua (5:41)

Meeting to Order: Rob calls the meeting to order at 5:39

Approval of the Agenda & Approval of the December 10, 2015 Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes by Jane, seconded by Liz.

Welcome to Catherine Thrall, a Manchester resident and recent addition to the Commission. She has worked at the Smithsonian and Wadsworth Atheneum. She was also an art teacher at St. James School here in Manchester and currently enjoys creating art in her home studio.

Meeting Schedule for 2016: Feb. 11, Mar. 10, April 14, May 12, June 9, Sept. 8, Oct 13, Nov. 10, Dec. 8.

Troubadour Event: Dan Thompson is on-board to compose an anniversary song but we do not have approval from the Road Race Committee yet and we will approach the Committee for their approval.

Annual Report: Bob will send out the format to the other members and we will compile our information of our events and budget information from the past year. We would really like to highlight the Richard Blanco event as that was such a resounding success.

Big Book of Ideas: Rob would like to start populating the book with potential Hall of Famers, artists of a particular skill-set, potential commission members, new ideas... all things to plan for the future.

State of the Arts: It looks like there is interest in having another one this year. Last year was held in March and was well-attended. Michele would like to hold it at Manchester Country Club on March 24 of this year. Jo-Ann mentions that particular day is the day before Good Friday and there may be conflicts with attendees; the week prior is St. Patrick's Day. We could explore March 10 or 31 with the Country Club and see about availability.

Hall of Fame: June 16 at the East Side Family Resource Center (Spruce Street). Last year we approved Rick Meyer. Rob and Nick will put the call for nominations out via social media and the Website. We also would like to have the full historical record of awardees posted on the Web also. We will change the deadline for submissions to March 30, 2016 so they can be voted on at our April meeting.

Troubadour Event: Specific dates will need to be checked with Cheney Hall. We would be most interested in an Octoberish date. We would like to engage a "headlining act" and will check with some artists' availability.

## Media & Marketing:

The new community calendar is up, but the Website does not have the ability yet to send registration e-mails. Jane will send photos from Dehn Gallery events for publication on the MAC site. Jane would also like to use her contact list to populate the Arts Directory.

The Facebook page has broken 500 likes and does get lots of activity. Liz would like to have a reward for people who finish our next survey (like a prize drawing for one or two people who have completed the survey). We could also poll and see what type of music people would like to see for the headlining act of the troubadour event. The last survey done was a recap of 2015 to see what events people were attending through the year and to see if and how we need to adjust.

Press releases and program ads: Perhaps the next time members attend events, we can "share" the event before, during or after. Rob attended an event at Photsynthesis and found that there were 37 different types of photo techniques used at that exhibition, something he felt other people might be interested in if they weren't aware of how many techniques are available to photographers.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn by Liz is seconded by Pasqua at 6:27. All approve.