

ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting of Tuesday, 03 January 2012
Mansfield Community Center (MCC) Conference Room

MINUTES

1. The meeting was **called to order** at 7:01p by Kim Bova. *Members present:* Tom Bruhn, Kim Bova, Scott Lehmann, Blanche Serban, David Vaughan. *Members absent:* Joe Tomanelli. *Others present:* Cynthia Van Zelm (Downtown Partnership), Jay O'Keefe (staff).

2. The draft **minutes** of the 06 December 2011 meeting were approved as written.

3. **Storrs Center.** Cynthia Van Zelm gave the Committee a general update on the Storrs Center project, which was followed by discussion of what form an arts-presence in the new downtown might take. {Ms. Van Zelm left the meeting, with the Committee's thanks for her presentation, before the end of this discussion.}

Kim would like to see a co-op art gallery, large enough to serve as a common-room for community events and private parties, with kitchen facilities for receptions and the like. Such a gallery would complement what the School of Fine Arts just across Storrs Rd offers to visitors. A successful co-operative art gallery in Charlottesville, VA, that Kim visited recently might serve as a model. Ms. Van Zelm suggested that if the Committee is interested in something like this, it should put together a proposal for the developer that provides reason to think it might be a success (e.g., existing models that are successful, a poll of local artists revealing enthusiasm & willingness to work, a business plan). Based on conversations with some Open Studio artists, Blanche expressed some doubt that local artists could be interested in putting time and effort into such a project; in any case, it would probably have to be presented to the developer as an experiment, to be evaluated after a year or two. Several Committee members wondered if the School of Business could be interested in contributing a business plan and student interns. In the end, Kim agreed to approach Karla Fox to see what she thinks might be possible.

Ms. Van Zelm indicated that the Downtown Partnership is working on a public-spaces plan linking the new Storrs Center and surrounding assets (Moss Sanctuary, Greek Theatre, Storrs Center open space, et al.) via walkways and signage. If the Committee were interested in promoting public sculpture in Storrs Center, it might want to meet with the people who are developing this plan. Tom was not enthusiastic about promoting sculpture: the kind we'd get for what we're willing to pay gets old quickly, in his view, and it would be wiser to go for attractive landscaping with nice places to sit, perhaps a fountain or two. The Committee agreed that it should find out more about the public-spaces plan.

4. **Summer band program.** David indicated that he would probably defer his summer band-program experiment to 2013.

5. **Art display application form.** The Committee discussed revisions of the application form proposed by David and designed to make it serve for exhibits at Town Buildings in general. The only buildings that appear to be set up for art displays at present are the Community Center, the Mansfield Library, and the Senior Center. Since the Senior Center has its own committee to approve exhibits, our form probably just needs to cover exhibits at the first two venues. Scott suggested (1) adding an introductory page that alerts artists to display opportunities at these venues and (2) adding some boxes to check on the form to indicate the venue. The introductory page should direct artists interested in displaying at the Senior Center to approach whoever is in charge over there, and artists interested in exhibiting at the Library to go there first to discuss the exhibit. The form at present just needs two check-boxes, one for the Community Center, the other for the Library – with a signature approval line in the latter case. David agreed to continue work on an improved form.

6. **MCC exhibits.**

- a. The **Dubay** and **Geoghegan** exhibits will be installed shortly.
- b. Scott e-mailed the **Quiet Corner Photography Club** about its proposed exhibit of photos of Joshua Trust properties, but has had no response. On the chance that the message is sitting in an unused mailbox somewhere, he will try telephoning.

Exhibit Period	Entry cases		Sitting room		Hallway	
	Double-sided	Shelves	Upper (5)	Lower (3)	Long (5)	Short (2)
15 Oct – 14 Jan			<i>Murray Wachman</i> (acrylics)			
15 Jan – 14 Apr	<i>Kenneth Dubay</i> (wooden bowls)		<i>Jan Geoghegan</i> (encaustic & mixed media)			
15 Apr – 31 May	<i>Mansfield School Art?</i>					
01 Jun – 17 Aug			<i>Quiet Corner Photography Club?</i> (photos of Joshua Trust properties)			
27 Aug – 14 Oct	Festival on the Green advertising, Art Show winners?					
15 Oct – 14 Jan					<i>Jim Gabianelli</i> (machine art)	

7. Adjourned at 8:40p. Next meeting: 7:00p, Tuesday, 07 February 2012. Possible guests: someone to discuss the Public Spaces Plan (see item 3 above), or someone from the Greek Orthodox Church to discuss use of its not-yet-completed Greek Theatre on Dog Lane. Tom and David will coordinate these invitations.

Scott Lehmann, Secretary, 04 January 2012; approved 07 February 2012.