Special Meeting of the Membership, Saturday, November 16, 2020

Facilitator: Tom Merriam

Attending: Annette Brennan, Krista Sullivan, Helen Burns, Glen MacWilliams, David Mazur, Dede Cadieux, Maryse Newton, Ken Gilbride, Harold Anderson, Dennis Glidden, Barbara Rogenstein, Gloria Gustafson, Michael Benham

1. All were introduced and Helen Burns was on the phone in attendance.
2. An open discussion began regarding nominees for the Board of Directors. Ken Gilbride said that there was a violation of notice and that a slate of officers had to be sent out to all members 30 days in advance. Ken said it was impossible for all members to vote on the slate as it was possible to amend it at the meeting. He is concerned. How can we vote? David Mazur asked how often we have violated by-laws and how often we uphold all that is required and Ken said that it happened regulary without knowledge. Glen MacWilliams cited the Maine Nonprofit Corporation Act where a member can call a meeting for a situation that they deem deserves immediate attention. The fact that there was no formal functioning board was a good reason to call the meeting. YAA is now like a ship without a captain and we want to build solid governance. Helen Burns stated that the bylaws are key but it is always important to try to go forward and that the bylaws after review would best include staggered terms so that this did not occur. There would people holding each other's hands to bring them along to serve in a new capacity of leadership. Tom asked for a vote to proceed with the election as planned. It was unanimous. The group wanted to hear the officers named.
3. The initial slate sent to all of the members was Tom Merriam, President; David Mazur, Board Member; Glen MacWilliams, Board Member; Harold Anderson, Treasurer; Helen Burns, Board Member; Jess Anderson, Advisor. This was approved and then revised with an additional nomination by David Mazur to include Maryse Newton, Board Member. Then David Mazur, said he would agree to be Vice-President; and Tom Merriam said that Drew Poulopoulos, had been asked to be Secretary and he was thinking it over. Harold Anderson said to remove Jess Anderson due to the fact that she was only in an advisory role. The revised slate was then unanimously approved as follows: Tom Merriam, President; David Mazur, Vice-President; Glen MacWilliams, Board Member; Harold Anderson, Treasurer; Drew Poulopoulos, Secretar; Maryse Newton and Helen Burns, Board Member. In addition, Melinda Campbell was approved as Show Chair to replace Tom Merriam.
4. David Mazur went over the member survey results and had the results summarized and will make these available on-line to the members. About 20 people replied. He felt that 3 new initiatives could arise form the survey. Harold Anderson said that it was a good first step but that it would require many in depth discussions and that a

session held at former Board member Lynn halmi's house was the best session we have ever had to get a plan together, and we should do this again. Harold noted that the lack of participation by key sectors of York was an issue. He also felt that there needed to be more non-artist members. The ratio has to be increased between artists to non-artists.

5. Glen MacWilliams would like to review the architectural plan for a capital campaign developed year's ago. Harold Anderson questioned whether or not the building was a good suit for the purposes of the association. Parking is limited at this point.
6. Glen MacWilliams suggested people look over the Maine Nonprofit Act and see if they can glean some guidelines to use so that things run smoothly.
7. The group discussed the organization's credibility with the community and that the credibility has to be good and the organization would be thriving. They are major potential supporters. We need to establish a better reputation with a brand and make it more of a destination.
8. Maryse Newton asked for a job description for the new Executive Director and all agreed that this would be important as it is so new. And, it is not a part of the by laws that there are paid employees. A discussion ensued on payment to board members and the legality of it and it is important to note per Glen MacWilliams that board members can be paid
9. Capacity building is important on all fronts per Tom Merriam and Glen MacWilliams. We must look at a strategic plan and get together a vision, mission and three or four key points per David Mazur. We must also look at what we are doing and evaluate that regularly. We need a capital campaign to increase our building's capacity.
10. We also want to develop more of an educational outreach and build on YAA's youth camp and its success. We have a Student Art Showcase coming up per Maryse Newton, and it is important to get all printed materials for the coming year together to have available to all of the parents who attend and maximize on this opportunity.
11. An open discussion ensued to cover the importance of having information readily available on line and that includes the minutes. Glen MacWilliams noted that was a practice until only recently. Gloria Gustafson felt bringing in special artists and presenting talks by artists would be enticing and especially noted asking Dennis LeBlanc. Glen MacWilliams discussed the idea that music, sculpture, literature, crafts and more than painting were key for the organization to flourish. Maryse Newton wants to host a chowder cook off to raise funds and wanted to handle the facebook and instagram pages. Helen Burns stated that she was very excited about this dialogue and it pointed the way forward to so much more.
12. Meeting Adjourned at 12:00 for venison stew and blueberry bread courtesy of Tom Merriam and Glen MacWilliams, and ginger cookies courtesy of Krista Sullivan.