YAA Board Meeting Minutes – May 28, 2021

Submitted by Betsy Cromley, Secretary

1. Roll Call: present—Tom Merriam, Taryn Myers, Dede Cadieux, Helen Burns, Glen MacWilliams, Betsy Cromley, Todd Bonita, Scott Blanchard, Maryse Newton;
    a. Absent: Torbert MacDonald
    b. Guests: Alyssa Wright, Fund-raiser; Sarah Johnson, Intern
2. All voted to approve minutes (with corrections offered by Glen) of the 4.26.21 Board meeting.
3. Introduction of Alyssa Wright, a professional fundraiser, who explained aspects of the work she could undertake for the art association. She was a former YAA board member who worked on Youth programs and is thus very familiar with our organization. She suggested before we hire her that we can take "baby steps" in the next 6 months to build community relationships and membership, and have a strategic plan in place. She explained her fee structure and stated that working on commission is unethical.
4. Todd Bonita presented his own history of starting a small gallery in 2014 and using it to create a community of artists. It grew over time to a second gallery and numerous classes. He provided inspiration to YAA as we try to re-establish ourselves and grow a community after covid closure.
5. Scott presented an update on Art in the Park. Each time an email is sent out, he gets a few more people to sign up. He thinks a notice every two weeks would bring in more vendors; Sarah, our intern, could make personal phone calls with potential vendors and will meet with Scott. A banner advertising AIP to hang over York St. was found in storage and looked over after the meeting adjourned.
6. We have an opportunity to have life-drawing workshops with models in the gallery. Curtains needed at the windows. A platform and spot lights are in the storage room. Tom has contacts for a model.
7. Building up the Board: current members need to reach out to potential new Board members. The process for making an invitation is spelled out in the YAA Handbook online. Alyssa said that her survey of the "philanthropic landscape" will identify additional names of possible new Board members. Continuity of Board: Helen named those current members who will complete their two-year terms in Sept. 2021; they will ask to be reelected to a new term or rotate off. The Board may want to adjust the bylaws to create 1, 2, and 3-year terms to systematically stagger terms to ensure continuity.
8. New Business:
    a. Betsy introduced our summer intern, Sarah Johnson, who is getting credit for the internship from Endicott College. Betsy asked each Board member to think of how they could acquaint Sarah with their area of responsibility and enlist her help, to give her a full overview of all the aspects of YAA work. Please give Betsy the details of your arrangements with Sarah since she has to report to Endicott.

   b. Glen reminded us of the need to review all the motions passed by the Board over the past months and make sure they were being acted upon or put on the next meeting agenda.
   c. Glen drafted two memos proposing a curatorial committee to manage a YAA permanent collection. We will take this up at the next meeting.
9. The next meeting will be 9am June 16 at the Gallery.
   a. Betsy moved, Taryn seconded to adjourn at 10:50.