

Annual Meeting

Annual Meeting, Sunday January 29, 2017
Minutes
4:03 pm

Executive Director:
Barbara Von Schreiber

Board Members Attending:
President: Peter Talbot
Vice President: Elizabeth MacDonald
Treasurer: Dan Colton
Secretary: Rich Pomerantz

Chairs of Standing Committees Attending:
Exhibition Chair: Karen Simmons
Co-Chair Volunteers: Maryellen Furse
Special Events Co-Chair: Barbara Talbot
Special Events Co-Chair: Abdo Ballester (Summer Solstice)
Membership Chair: Joanne Caldera
Publicity Chair: Jessica Jane Russell
Building Chair: Eliot Johnson

Trustees at Large:
Faith Stewart Gordon, Pat Loeven, Guy Peterson, Rich Pomerantz,
Bruce Glickman

Trustees absent:
Jenn Pote
Jayne Bentzen
Robert Burns
Joanne Conant
Mark Mennin
Ann Mallory

President's Welcome and Review of 2016:

Peter Talbot called meeting to order at 4:03pm. He thanked members for attending and participating. He remarked that the Washington Art Association & Gallery is coming up on its 65th anniversary this year. Peter stated that Barbara von Schreiber is doing a terrific job and that Karen Simmons has done a great job with exhibitions. Comments: "WAA is a school, a gallery a cultural center and an arts outreach to our community. With a small staff and volunteers, we do so much, yet some folks don't know about us. So we need to cast a wider net and get more people involved, young and old."

Exhibition, Education & Events: Peter thanked Karen Simmons, Joanne Conant and Jenn Pote as they rotate off the Board of Trustees. He remarked that he would like to remember and find a way this year to honor Louise King, Frances Owles, Tom Doyle, Benedict Silverman and Georgia Middlebrook who have helped over the years making WAA what it is today. Peter indicated that following the annual meeting, a Trustees Handbook will be distributed to the Board of Trustees and available for all members to view at the WAA office.

Director's comments:

Barbara Von Schreiber remarked that Trish Anderson and Ginger Nelson work extremely hard and also give volunteer hours. She introduced Ramsay Turnbull, the new Development Director. She explained that Ramsay is responsible for publicity, marketing and development and is a great asset to WAA. Barbara remarked that WAA lectures are a great success and much requested. She noted that Wendy and Bill Luers have offered their home for the first off-site WAA Speakers Series event. She explained that Trustees have been tasked with providing ideas and members are requested to get involved with the WAA Speakers Series. She mentioned that Flora Biddle has offered to give a lecture about the Whitney family and museum. Barbara recognized WAA faculty, specifically calling out Jack Rosenberg and Edward DeVoe, and thanked all the dedicated WAA volunteers.

Presentation of Building Program:

Building Chair: Eliot Johnson
Eliot Johnson and Peter Talbot discussed the renovation of the 2nd floor offices. Eliot outlined renovation and explained that while WAA is cautious to invest \$ if WAA is doing major changes soon, WAA also needs some exterior fixes beyond the work to the administrative spaces. Eliot thanked Abbey Taylor for doing exterior landscaping at no cost. Eliot indicated that the building program is to be funded by capital campaign which began last year. Peter indicated this to be approximately \$18-20k including equipment. Peter introduced the proposed renovations and Lisa Gray, principal of the architecture firm of Gray and Organschi, and remarked that the firm has done an exceptional job working with the building committee pro bono. Lisa gave an overview of the project, explaining that the first task was to get community input -what works, what doesn't- and that flexible storage and more space for classrooms was needed as well as improved exhibition spaces. Lisa expounded on boundary/building issues and septic system challenges and presented the building plans in detail. Questions were asked and answered and new ideas offered: offsite classroom, basement, flexible panels for exhibition. A discussion ensued about phasing vs. all at once as per cost effectiveness for building renovations.

Review and vote on the proposed revisions of the Bylaws

Peter Talbot motion, second by Karen Simmons. Passed by acclamation. Peter Talbot motion, second Rich Pomerantz. Passed by acclamation.

Slate of Officers and Committee Chairs

Rich Pomerantz presented the 2017 slate. In addition to trustees being voted in for additional terms there are two special elections. John Thompson as Development Chair and Abdo Ballester as Special Event Chair for additional 1-year term.

Karen Simmons introduced new exhibition committee member Hugh O'Donnell. Peter Talbot introduced Zeb Mayer. **Hugh O'Donnell as new Exhibition Chair and new Board Member and Zeb Mayer as new Board Member. Motion to accept the new Committee Chair and Trustee at Large was approved.**

Peter Talbot remarked that Jayne Bentzen has submitted her letter of resignation but would like to stay in touch and be considered again for the board in the future.

Rich Pomerantz moved to accept the slate as presented –second by Susan Purdy. Passed by acclamation.

Finance – 2016 Review and budget for 2017

Treasurer's Report:

Dan Colton reported that for the first time in three years WAA did not finish the year with a deficit. WAA ended 2016 with a net gain of \$2,352. WAA paid off its line of credit so there is no debt at the moment.

Soft launch of website

Barbara Talbot gave a presentation of the new website designed by Teresa Fernandes of "Happening in the Hills." She thanked Dimitri Rimsky for all the years of running our website and Ramsay Turnbull for her contributions to the new website. Barbara Talbot was thanked for all her hard work on the website project.

Exhibition Chair: Karen Simmons

Karen Simmons provided a recap of a great year in exhibitions and highlighted Cuban Art and Malcolm Moran. She expressed enthusiasm for the upcoming exhibitions – Members Show, Juried, photography and sculpture shows. Karen expressed her gratitude to the WAA community, staff and exhibition committee during the four years she served as Exhibition Chair and specifically thanked Elizabeth MacDonald for being such a great help. Peter Talbot thanked Karen Simmons for her service.

Education Chair: Barbara von Schreiber

Barbara announced that WAA has 10 classes at the moment and two open studios. She explained that she has recently introduced a policy of drop-in attendance to discourage pro-rating class tuition. She announced that, notably, there are many new people in WAA classes and that Ira Barkoff had a very successful workshop. She also indicated that of 13 workshop attendees, 8 were new.

Volunteer Chair: Maryellen Furse

Maryellen thanked all the volunteers who have helped out throughout the year. She specifically requested input and ideas from membership moving forward and encouraged more participation.

Membership Chair: Joanne Caldera

Joanne announced that WAA membership is growing and that a letter sent to lapsed members brought in 20 renewals.

As of 1/26:

131 current members which means life and expires December 2017.
346 members who expired in December 2016
64 brand new members for 2016 and thus far in 2017

Joanne remarked that the 2017 membership letter is ready to go out and that there is a surge of interest in WAA – all events are bringing in more people. She elaborated that exposure helps increase response and that there is a good buzz about WAA. She mentioned that the new website will also generate new people, especially with new sustaining membership option.

Development Chair: (Peter Talbot presented). Peter remarked that the capital campaign is an ambitious plan to raise funds, with the hope for \$1.5-\$1.25 million for the building plus \$500K-\$1 million for endowment.

Special Events Co-Chairs: Barbara Talbot & Abdo Ballester

Barbara Talbot expressed that special events add to the financial health of our organization. She announced that the Holiday Show this year was a great success. She thanked Maryellen Furse and Bruce Glickman. Barbara commented that the off-site event at Community Table was successful and popular and that Community Table will continue to be an outlet for WAA. The TAP event at the Litchfield Distillery was also great- and underwritten in part by the Distillery- and that the auction was new for WAA and a good idea. She mentioned that the pamphlet for the Holiday Show was a nice takeaway.

Abdo Ballester praised Peter Talbot, Barbara Talbot and Barbara von Schreiber for all they do for WAA. He remarked that he will work on fundraising for the 2017 Summer Solstice event with Ramsay Turnbull.

President's Thank You

Peter Talbot suggested that members take a look at the current renovations of offices on the second floor. He also mentioned that there will be a new era of income forms that will enable WAA to evaluate costs more effectively. Peter thanked all who attended and voted.

Peter Talbot motion to adjourn -Rich Pomerantz second. Unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm

Respectfully submitted by

Rich Pomerantz
Secretary