



Apha Arts Guild Minutes from February 16, 2012 Meeting

Ray began the meeting with a word about the value of networking and social activities to become better artists. He also reiterated his point we want the guild to be open to everyone and for everyone to feel free to bring a guest, but it is only fair to pay for attendees to pay a membership fee.

Danita proposed that the first set-up on the guild's website be free to members. However, if a member is removed from the website for non-payment of dues, there will be a fee of \$25 for a second set-up on the website due to the amount of time involved and to legitimize the efforts in making a quality website. She also put a question to the members about the colors of the guild's website. She wanted feedback as to whether the current colors were too dark. The general consensus seemed to be that they are fine as they are.

Ray introduced Nancy Suttles, who works in the Parks and Rec. Dept. and its art instruction program. She proposed a joint effort with the students in the program, their parents, and the guild to host a juried show of the students' artwork, which would also include works by guild members. She has explored the idea of having the GSU facility in Alpharetta host the event, which ideally would last three days. She feels that a joint effort with her program and the guild will promote the arts in Alpharetta and will hopefully demonstrate the need for a permanent place for the arts in the city. One of the advantages, she adds, is that there is built-in security in the GSU facility.

She also explains that because she works for the city, she cannot accept or solicit funds for the arts. She added that even if there is an offer of a scholarship, she cannot accept it. Any monies would go into the city's general fund, not to the arts. With the guild's help, there would be a possibility of corporate underwriting that would help pay for gallery walls and other necessities. This would benefit both groups, and, in addition, she has storage space. (see "Other Thoughts...")

Carol Jean has looked at several sites, including John's Creek, where the Georgia Watercolor Society had a show. In her search, she learned that the Mansell House (run by the Garden Club and Historical Society) would be an excellent site for a show because of its prime location and ample parking. This location is used for various social events and would probably not be available until early November. She added that the director seemed very open to the idea and would probably be willing to reduce the cost of renting the facility. (see "Other Thoughts...")

Danita expressed the need for other people to be trained in maintaining the website. Sandy Barth volunteered to do a page, and Susan McLean said that she would learn how to enter the minutes of the

meetings. April seemed to be the best target time for a newsletter, and Danita said as of right now she has nothing concrete to add. She called for information about our January speaker and other events.

Ray pointed out that Rebecca Raymond from Streetfest--April 14 and 15 would like our continued help as volunteers. Ray suggested setting up a tent for the guild. Danita was praised for her efforts in the past in setting up a tent and organizing the volunteers. It was presented that this is part of our "give-back" mission.

Other thoughts and ideas from the meeting:

Carol Jean suggested partnering with handicapped artists. She recalled a show at Northpointe that was well-received, as well as a show for Milton Vines, another handicapped artist. The program for the handicapped was called "Arts for All."

The director of Johns Creek offered the use of the site, but there was some doubt about the benefits of using it since it was not really a "gallery setting." The director gave Carol Jean the name of a professional grant-writer, but cautioned her that many grants require a paid CEO to be eligible.

Nancy pointed out that the arts center has been static for 14 years. Everyone involved is "ready for something," and that parents would be a good resource in getting people involved. She also pointed out that with our combined efforts the guild would benefit from more exposure because her program is consistently featured in the paper, as much as once or twice a week. Because her program ends in July, we might prepare in August for a fall show.

Ray said that he had the help of a member of the city council to represent the needs of the arts in the city.