

**Auburn Old Town Gallery
Membership Meeting Minutes
January 16, 2023**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by co-President Sandy Lindblad at 6:30pm
There were 32 members in attendance!

Members were reminded to sign in to document their attendance

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the November 21, 2023 membership meeting were approved. Motion was made by Sandy Delahanty and seconded by Stacy Pedri.

Vice President Report – Sonja Hamilton

To date nothing has been presented to report on to either of the Vice Presidents. Sonja did say that Shoshi is recovering well from her surgery and encouraged group to send cards. The gallery has sent flowers.

Treasurer's Report – Stacy Pedri

Stacy provided report and reviewed several items. December sales were \$42,918.07 (down slightly from November) and a profit of \$6648.20 for month. Though our 2022 sales were \$30K less than previous year, our year-end profit was \$1832.88. Account balances total \$34,186.

Janis Quinn motioned report be approved, Sandy D seconded. All in favor AYE. No one opposed.

Stacy reminded us that K1's will be issued by Phillips & Starbuck. Their deadline to complete is March 15th.

Display – Susan Stoll and Linda Miller

Susan began her report by mentioning Chris Foster who, due to illness, has left the gallery. She has strongly communicated that she does not care to have cards or visitors. She asked Susan to tell us that it was the "honor of her art career to be part of AOTG"

Susan shared that currently we have 2 wall spaces available. She will meet with committee on upcoming space moves and at that time evaluate if additional spaces might be made possible.

Emphasized the need to build wait list to allow us to have artists ready to move in as current artists leave gallery.

Linda discussed feature wall and our February Heart Give-Away program. ANY customer making ANY purchase is invited to select a heart as a thank you. Thanks to Mary Cargile (made the hearts), Diane Van De Carr (fired the hearts) and Linda Miller (painted the hearts) we have 336 hearts ready to hand out. Amazing.

The theme for February feature wall is gift ideas.

Linda also reiterated need for new members and advice for judging tonight's (and on-going) potential members. Do not judge on what you would buy, or similarity to a current gallery member's art, base vote on technical skills, professionalism and consistency. Don't base on price, the artist will figure pricing out on sales. Discussed wait list and how it works

Publicity – Darlene Riel

Discussed publicity budget, which was emailed to members. Noted all prices have increased. Team will watch and manage budget carefully. Evaluating need to spend dollars for FB boosts and how/when to use. Last year \$3437 was spent, \$21 over budget. This year's budget is \$4306 which includes \$1K for possible website redesign. Members discussed need for new design or not – Darlene assured group that nothing would be done without vote from membership. At this point it is only in discussion stage

Linda Miller motioned to approve budget, Gia McNutt seconded. All those in favor AYE, no one opposed

At this point Doug Parks interjected idea of purchasing a laptop as backup to POS system as well as fulfilling other needs. Also shared that the printer is on its last leg and if it goes we should consider making a laptop/printer purchase at same time. Re-evaluate as needs arise

Darlene shared invitation to participate in event offered by Art League in Lincoln to have art in the rotunda at city hall. 2D & 3D artists, shows run 2 months, no fees, good exposure. Discussion ensued. Darlene will send email out and ask for input and interests.

Facilities – Barbra Paitich

Learning the ropes with help from Stacy and others. Cherie Danzer offered to be on committee with her. Stacy will meet with her Thursday, share information regarding vendors etc., and discuss establishing subscribe and save with Amazon for automatic deliveries of specific items.

Good point was brought up that when we sell an item off wall to please put that label in the artist's folder as they can often be reused.

Special Events – Diane Tharp

Waiting to receive calendar of events from Old Town Business Association to coincide/participate in their scheduled events. Invited others to join her committee if interested.

Reminded members of their responsibility to participate in events annually. Shared idea made by Cathy McAllister that in lieu of members being asked to provide refreshments we each donate \$10 annually and the committee will purchase what is needed as needed. Everyone agreed to that idea. Diane will collect money – please do NOT leave cash in her folder.

Amy Conley commented on the last two events, which were successful but congested as we had music and the performers brought many people with them and blocked some of the artists work and walkways. A 'lively' discussion followed. We will leave it to Diane and team to manage this going forward. We all want the music, just need to establish boundaries if/where needed.

Membership – Janis Quinn

Janis did not provide her report as it was covered by Display

New Business

To facilitate the discussion of closing earlier on Friday and Saturday nights, Treasurer Stacy Pedri provided handout of statistics through 2022 for Friday and Saturday 6-9 pm evening hours. The numbers show how activity/sales decrease during these hours with

notable drop after 8pm. She did not include statistics for special events that occur in Old Town as we would definitely stay open during events. Members contributed to pros and cons of staying open vs. closing.

Ann Ranlett motioned that we close gallery at 8 PM and that the schedulers and Board discuss how to stack the shifts. Gia McNutt seconded motion. All those in favor AYE, none opposed.

Jurying – Janis Quinn

Janis began presentation by thanking everyone for their efforts in spreading the “Call to Artists” word. It definitely produced results as we are jurying 9 artists tonight and have 2 already in the queue for May. She also thanked Jane Wells and her great work in meeting with each potential artist and assisting them with their displays.

Janis then introduced each artists work one by one and led conversation which covered professional comments from ‘like’ artists; reference information from those that know or have experience with the potential artist and general conversation of what we know about that person.

The structure of the vote followed. Suzanne will be sending survey to members by Tuesday morning with instructions for vote

Announcements – Carol Bellamy

Carol asked artists that joined gallery recently to please introduce and tell us a bit about themselves and their work. Therese, Connie and Barbra were welcomed

Louise asked if there would be a reception for new artists, something that we had previously. Carol noted idea.

Many artists shared information on upcoming shows they’ll be participating in. Darlene suggested this is exactly the information we need for social media and publicity posts!

Carol shared flyer information for a Crab Fed offered by Newcastle Parent Teacher Corporation and their request for artist donations.

You may contact Stacey Mathison 916 224-6809 if you wish to participate. Donations are needed by January 29th.

Sandy D motioned meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Mary Anderson. All those in favor AYE, no one opposed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Janis Quinn, Secretary