



ORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES

Monthly Meeting

Meeting Date **Mtg Date** Jan 19, 2017

Location: Minneapolis Institute of Art, Impressionists' Gallery

Meeting Leader: Allison Eklund, President Tel: 651-592-7858 Allison@eklund-law.com

Meeting Participants

<u>Name</u>	<u>Attended</u>
Allison Eklund, President	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Susan Estill, Paint-Outs	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Sharon Leah, member	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Mary Jo Ellis, Membership	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Sallie Malmstrom, Secretary	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Peter Mathews, Treasurer	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Rich Myers, Website	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Kim Gordon, Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes

Meeting Record

Secretary's Report

December 2016 Minutes were approved.

President's Report: Officer elections are slated for March 11. The president, treasurer and secretary positions are up for new terms. A vice president still is needed. Members volunteering their time will find it rewarding by making a difference in supporting this growing organization.

2016 was all about "exposure." What do we want in 2017? We have experienced some growing pains and need to focus on streamlining our resources to more effectively deliver on our commitments.

The majority of members want educational experiences and time spent networking with other painters. Exhibits with sales opportunities are a bonus for all -- but are not our main objective in determining the events in which we will participate.

Request for a standard for framing paintings so the hanging of paintings in upcoming exhibits are uniform and no paintings fall off the walls. From a past exhibit, an accident had happened due to poor framing practices. **A "Framing Standards" handout will be provided for all those who wish to participate in upcoming shows.**



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Treasurer's Report: We currently have \$11,115.86 in checking and \$1,789.54 in savings.

Summary of 2017 Budget

Income		
	5,000	Memberships
	200	Art Shanty Project
Expenses	1,500	Two Workshops
	1,000*	Awards*
	700	Events
	2,000	Special Opportunities TBD
TOTAL	\$5,200	

*Approved awards of \$305 for 2017 Minnesota State Fair; \$100 each for three plein air competitions in Grand Marais, Duluth and Red Wing (unless it is canceled). Awards for Frameworks were tabled.

There also was discussion about asking Neil Sherman to hold a third workshop if we could find additional funding outside of the \$5,200 budget. The group stated that the workshop should be held in the metro area to benefit the majority of the membership. The subject was tabled for further discussion should additional funding become available. We also want a better breakdown of the \$2,000 "special opportunities" expense. We can create a more detailed budget projection based on the numbers we have from 2016. Better itemized details exist for 2016 which can help us make better projections for 2017. For example, hundreds are spent on administrative costs. Where will this money come from in the illustration above?

Membership Update: Seventy-four members already have renewed. We also have 17 new members. Mary Jo and Kim are drafting a new "welcome letter" asking members to identify possible skills they could contribute to OPM.

Web Site: Past newsletters and meeting minutes still need to be posted on the webpages. We need our own domain name but still must research various providers to find the most cost effective and user-friendly host. In addition, we should:

- 1.) list the benefits of joining OPM,
- 2.) ask for volunteers,
- 3.) create the expectation that members must actively participate in several volunteer tasks per year besides attending paint outs and exhibits (i.e., help to hang an exhibit, set up/tear down events, artist check-in/out, plan and manage events, etc.).



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Paint-Outs: We updated the draft calendar:

1. Winter Plein Air Retreat at Camp Menogyn;
2. **Feb 4:** Art Shanty Project;
3. **Feb 11 from 10 - 4pm (Saturday):** Richard Abraham Workshop and Members' Exhibit at the MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge in Bloomington (https://www.fws.gov/refuge/minnesota_valley/). Lunch is provided. **Members only.**
4. **Feb 25 from 1 - 4pm (Saturday):** Rich Myers is hosting our next OPM Paint-Out at Wood Lake Nature Center in Richfield. (<http://www.cityofrichfield.org/around-town/wood-lake-nature-center>) You can either paint outdoors or in the nature center building (please bring a proper floor covering.)
5. **April 1 (Saturday) from 9 to 4pm:** Mary Pettis Workshop for members only, at the MN Wildlife Refuge – see #4. Lunch is provided. Paint-out afterwards without any critique from Mary Pettis. Possible instruction grants for afternoon paint out. Accept \$500 donation to deploy 3 – 5 painters during paint out to instruct public on plein air painting?
6. **May 19 - 26:** Black Hills Paint-out Road Trip (information contact Mary Jo Ellis @ mjellis64@gmail.com)
7. **June 10:** Potential paint out during Grand Opening of landscape renovations at Como Park Zoo and Conservatory visitor center; exhibit in gallery through Labor Day; OPM Picnic
8. Loring Park Art Festival paint out and exhibit/booth (pending);
9. **July 4:** Discussed sending letter of interest to Allison's Senate contact for an Independence Day paint out at the State Capital. (pending Paint-out);
10. **August 21:** State Fair – OPM Judging and Award at the Arts Building (time to be announced);
11. **September:** Allison also will get more information on a possible September paint out and exhibit at the UMN Landscape Arboretum. We need more information from Wendy DePaolis from the Arboretum regarding their vision for such an event, i.e., painting demos.
12. **November:** Frameworks Salon (TBD)
13. **December:** Annual Meeting and Year-End Party
14. Not scheduled yet: Parley Lake Winery and Windsong Farms Golf Club

We still need volunteer hosts for Paint-Outs in March, April and throughout the remainder of the year. If you are willing to host, you can choose the day, time and location for your personal convenience. Please talk to Susan Estill (sestill58@gmail.com) so she can get the Paint-out onto the OPM Calendar.



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Old Business: We unanimously voted to drop the executive director search. It does not fit in our budget.

We discussed the need to mobilize our volunteers this year to get more help and to fill the vacant Vice President and bookkeeper/Quickbooks positions. The bookkeeper needs to label accounts and split them into the right category for tax purposes.

New Business: Last year was a banner growth year for OPM but some events were not well attended. We recognize that we need to make sure we are fulfilling our commitments in such a way so that we are supporting new members and our paint-out site hosts. The group felt that we had too many commitments. We want to avoid that at all costs this year.

We also need to make some “process” improvements to streamline exhibits and events. For example, we should have a formal exhibit process so that we have standard hanging guidelines, preprinted labels ready at installation, and name tags available at receptions and special events. Memberships must be prepaid before signing up for an exhibit or special event.

We need to create and/or redefine director roles, who are “members at large assigned to special tasks.” In addition, the group discussed the potential need for a budget oversight committee to work in tandem with a planning committee to better manage OPM funds and time. Sharon Leah proposed that we have separate planning, budget and communications committees that would meet independently from the Board. A budget committee, for example, could consist of 3 members and 2 officers.

[See attachment for more info.](#)

EVENTS AND UPCOMING EXHIBITS:

April 2 – May 30: Members’ “Springtime” Exhibit at Deb Zeller Studio (1421 Mainstreet, Hopkins.) Painting drop off on Sunday 11 am to 1pm at the studio. Installation is from 1pm to 3pm.

Opening Reception, Thursday, April 6 from 5:30 to 8:00pm.

Painting pick up, Thursday, June 1 from 1pm to 7pm.

May 6 (Saturday): Panel Discussion on Plein Air Painting Competitions & OPM Meeting, 10am to 2pm. Panelists will present and answer questions when competing in plein air painting competitions. Allison and Sallie will report on attendance at the 2017 PACE in San Diego. Sharon Leah will moderate.

OPM meeting starts at 10am.

Panel Discussion from 12:30 to 2pm. *Bring your own lunch.*



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NEXT MEETING: February 11, 2017 at the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge in Bloomington. This will be an abbreviated meeting over lunch during Richard Abraham's workshop.

NOTE: MARCH 11 (Saturday) at MIA, formally, Minneapolis Institute of Arts, OPM meeting starts at 10am in the open café on first floor. Here we are electing new board members and plan for the upcoming community painting events.

Afterwards, there is a MIA docent-led tour of the Landscape Paintings in the exhibit halls (12pm to 2 pm).