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Minutes of OPM Monthly Meeting

Saturday September 23, 2017 at Central Park, Roseville, MN, 12:30pm.

The meeting was held after a hot and humid but well attended Paint Out.

President Allison Eklund opened the meeting with 4 members present.

The Minutes from the previous meeting were not available at that time so will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Presidents Report Allison Eklund) :

The upcoming Roseville Parks Plein Air Competition sponsored by the City of Roseville and the Roseville Visitor Association is in the final approval stage. While not yet approved, the application and support is complete and final approval is expected so OPM is continuing in preparation. Funding, including a \$500 additional prize as well as a commitment from the Dick Blick store in Roseville will support the competition. There will also be a nocturne painting at the holiday OVALumination , which is an annual lighting display at the John Rose speed skating oval with the winning painter having the option of their painting being used for poster and other advertising by the Visitor Association. One of our members, award winning Plein Air painter Bob Upton has agreed to be the juror.

Allison reported on a speech she gave at the Grand Marais Art Colony on Monday September 11 during the Grand Marais Plein Air competition. The presentation was about the OPM and we hope to generate more membership interest from this area.

We received an invitation to have our Spring Members Exhibition in Red Wing this year. See details in New Business section below.

Treasurer's Report (Allison Eklund):

The current balance in the bank is \$12,000.00. Our annual budget is \$5000 and derived primarily from membership dues.

Membership Report (Mary Jo Ellis):

Current membership Stands at 150. We have 250 followers of our Facebook page and there is opportunity to encourage more followers to join and pay dues to make this an even better organization. Memberships paid after October will be credited for the 2018 calendar year.

Paint Outs:

Susan Estill has done a great job as Paint Out Coordinator and it is time for someone else to step forward. It was pointed out that we embarked a couple of years ago on an aggressive campaign to increase the number of Paint Outs with the thought that we would find our happy medium of what is optimum for the group. It appears that the best approach has been letting individual members organize a paint out and act as host with the Paint Out Coordinator being a resource person, updating the schedule to avoid conflicts and getting the word out. We want to thank member Greg Lecker for setting up numerous Paint Outs through Banfill Locke Centre for the Arts this year proving that the current member led hosting works well.

September 30 is the Gibbs Farm Applefest Paint Out – please sign up.

October 7 is the River Falls Library paint out with the Wisconsin Plein Air Painters– there is no sign up for this but there is a sign up if you wish to exhibit at “Waters between Us” opening at River Falls Public Library, November 11th.

October 21 is the Banfill Locke paint out see notice of next meeting at end of the minutes.

Thank you to our Newsletter editor Kim Gordon for all her work getting the information out to us via email and social media.

Old Business:

The new bylaws committee is still in its formative phase. The plan is to restructure the leadership to add board members to the current board that is presently made up of officers only . This new board is envisaged to be made up of prominent members within the arts community but not necessarily artists themselves. They would meet infrequently and be tasked with long range strategic planning, exhibition and community involvement planning and giving direction to the current officers and membership regarding funding and exhibition opportunities. We are at a point where we are still a community based and volunteer, plein air focused group of painters but it is thought that organizing further to increase opportunities to expand our membership base, support our professional members in their career advancement and grow our public footprint is the next logical step for our organization. Provided of course, that we have the agreement and enthusiasm within our membership to forge ahead.

New Business:

There was some discussion about combining the Christmas get together with the December 20th opening of the Roseville Exhibit. It was decided not to and to instead hold the Year End party in early January, perhaps January 6th. More to come

A resolution was put forward to accept the opportunity to host our Spring Members Exhibition at the Anderson Center in Red Wing. This is a great opportunity as the exhibit space is large and we expect to be able to accommodate work from all our membership wanting to participate. It also will last for a longer period than most of our previous exhibitions and right up until the Red Wing Plein Air event. There was discussion about member volunteers coordinating a series of drop off spots for properly packaged paintings that could then be transported by a volunteer for hanging in

Red Wing to reduce the amount of travel for our exhibitors. More discussion to come on the details.

It was moved, seconded and approved.

A proposal to apply for 2018 Art Shanty Projects was approved by consensus. The grant would be for at least one and up to four 90-minute plein air “performances” as at previous events. The amount of grant to OPM proposed is \$200 for each performance, same as previous years.

Meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting Saturday October 21 at 12:30 pm after the Paint Out and lunch at the Banfill-Locke center for the Arts