

## Minutes of the VAST Executive Committee November 3, 2005.

Meeting was called to order by Lynne Cagle at 3:00pm.

Those attending: Dana Blanchard, Robin Butt, Becca Hines, Barbara Miller, Earnest Benton, Jr., Fran White Shurtleff, Billie Jean Kam, Donna Kutlus, Jon Hawkins, Mike Strecher, Craig Nance, Amber O'Dell, Lynne Cagle, Ingrid Scobie, Jo Williams, Mary Sigle Morris.

### **Discussion/Approval of Minutes introduced by Lynne Cagle**

Jo Williams suggested the minutes of the October meeting be amended to reflect that the answer to the 5013c question was answered in the affirmative. Jo Williams moved the minutes be accepted as amended, Amber O'Dell seconded the motion. None opposed and the motion was carried.

Lynne Cagle announced that the September minutes are still with Diane Gregory, former VAST secretary, and will be typed and distributed as soon as Lynne Cagle has possession of them.

### **Board Vacancy Update by Lynne Cagle**

Lynne Cagle announced that Earnest Benton, Jr. has agreed to be Parliamentarian for the membership year. Since the secretary position is still vacant, Dana Blanchard will take the minutes for the November 3 meeting.

### **Spring Exhibition Update by Amber O'Dell**

Amber O'Dell has been distributing and answering requests for prospectuses. 29 entries, 2 of which are from VAST members, have been received so far. Amber suggested an email reminder for members to participate. Several members mentioned that entries tend to come at the last minute. Advertising about the Spring Exhibition is on the VAST website including biographical information on the juror, Karl Umlauf. An upbeat article about the upcoming exhibition was written by Lucinda Breeding. Amber and Ingrid Scobie will meet with Lucinda again closer to the exhibition date. Gabriel Cobos, a new member, is assisting Amber with the exhibition, primarily with data entry. The deadline for entries for the exhibition is November 21.

### **Slide Night Potluck Dinner Update by Barbara Miller**

Barbara Miller will handle the potluck dinner held in conjunction with the Spring Exhibition slide night that will precede the December 1 VAST monthly meeting. Barbara asked for suggestions. After a discussion among the board, it was decided that a sign up sheet will be distributed at the November 3 general meeting to get an estimate of the number attending, but not on the dish each member intends to bring. Start of the potluck dinner was decided to be as close to 5:00pm as possible, with the start of the slide presentation around 5:45. The slide show was in the dance studio last year, but it was suggested that it might be better to hold it downstairs since it will be dark enough. John Riegelman of the Center is aware of our plans for using the Center from 5:00-7:00pm that night in addition to our regular hours. Melodee Ramirez donated a dozen carousels for the slide projector so there are enough to handle the anticipated number of slide entries.

### **Studio Tour Update by Jon Hawkins and Donna Kutlus**

Jon Hawkins and Donna Kutlus mentioned they still need 6 or 7 volunteers to fill all the time slots for each of the tour participants. The Leader of each site will receive a packet containing: 1) list of volunteers and contact information and time assignment, 2) prospectuses for Spring Exhibition, 3) promotional material from a tour sponsor, 4) tour tickets for sale, 5) calendars and note cards for sale, 6) promotional posters on the tour, 7) vouchers for the Barnes and Noble Book Fair benefiting VAST.

Most artists' studios will be easy to find. One exception might be on Bob Cat Road. Also, Jerry Daniels place was not photographed in the tour directions brochure. Lynne Cagle asked about a missing time slot at the Provosts' studio. Jon said there is no volunteer for that time as yet. Lynne mentioned she had asked for high school volunteers and some might be available. Two students would be paired with an adult. Billie Jean Kam is working on directions for the tour, including photographs of the actual locations. It is desirable to keep it to 2 pages. Font size was discussed for ease of reading while driving.

Ingrid Scobie mentioned the wonderful publicity that the studio tour was getting including a "sacred spaces" article by Lucinda Breeding. Also part of the \$1000 worth of free advertising donated to VAST by the *Denton Record Chronicle* will be used for the tour. Becca Hines also shared articles in the paper that have covered the event.

Lynne Cagle mentioned that she promoted VAST at a meeting of the American Association of University Women.

### **Membership Update by Lynne Cagle**

VAST has 2 new members with the count now at 186. Jon Hawkins called some non-renewing members and found most had just forgotten to renew. Becca Hines will send New Member packets containing essential information to those who have not been members before. The postage is \$.83 each.

Lynne Cagle opened discussion on the proposed Membership Levels/Benefits. She saw this as a means for promoting greater financial support beyond our basic membership. Ingrid Scobie questioned how it impacts event sponsors and award sponsors. Lynne said that the Membership Levels were separate from that support opportunity.

Lynne Cagle spoke to Craig Springer about long-term plans for VAST of which one "on the books" is acquiring our own building. Obtaining grants was another. A Meadows Foundation Grant was a possibility but it usually required an endowed scholarship to reflect capital donations. That type of funding usually needed a Board of Directors. Ingrid Scobie asked if community members could be on the VAST Executive Board in addition to or rather than serving on a new Board of Directors. Lynne replied to the negative explaining that the Executive Board was procedural; the Board of Directors would be for long-term planning and capital funding projects. Lynne Cagle concluded her point by saying that the expansion of Membership Levels/Benefits was a first step in achieving the aforementioned goals. Fran White Shurtleff asked if there would be a need to change the bylaws to adopt these member level/benefits. Jo Williams replied to the negative. Barbara Miller moved that the Membership Levels/Benefits be accepted as presented. Jo Williams seconded. Motion was approved.

### **Denton Benefit League Update by Lynne Cagle**

Lynne Cagle and Jo Williams were interviewed by the Denton Benefit League concerning the VAST grant application. The league was very complimentary of the document. It was announced that if VAST receives the grant from DBL, VAST will need to contribute funds (amount unknown at this time and contingent upon DBL funding) for the total amount needed to purchase the equipment which was requested in the grant.

### **Budget Report by Mike Strecher**

Mike distributed a comparison report of this year and last. He indicated that the balance was staying level with funds coming in similar to funds going out (\$3000). There is still a large bill to be paid for the printing of the calendars once some problems have been resolved. The VAST account is hovering at about \$10,000.

Lynne Cagle questioned an entry of \$14,000 of uncategorized outflow. The Denton Benefit League pointed this out in the interview. Mike is still researching the question. It is having no effect on our actual funds or account.

### **Exhibits/Special Projects by Jo Williams**

Jo Williams announced that the GDAC December Sale will be Friday, Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6:30 – 8:30pm and Saturday, Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>, 9 am – 2 pm. Setup time is 1 – 5pm on Friday. VAST has reserved four tables at \$25/table (a table are 2 tables put at double width to make a square). Lynne Cagle mentioned that VAST could use a table to sell its own goods and then offer the others as a benefit to members to pool their own art goods for sale. An announcement was planned for the general meeting. Board discussion raised questions on number of artists allowed per table. Ingrid Scobie got some clarification from GDAC by phone and announced that ideally only 2 artists/table at a time. VAST will be predominate since other organizations have not been enthusiastic. Jo Williams suggested that perhaps only 1 table is needed by VAST.

Jo Williams announced the VAST 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration with a Mexican food potluck dinner to be held 5 – 7 pm, before the January 2006 general meeting. Past VAST presidents have been invited with all but 2 accounted for. She suggested a big birthday cake and asked for ideas to honor the

presidents. Suggestions included: VAST logo on pens, mugs, totebags; gift certificates; gift bag of goodies. Cost will be investigated, since this expense was not planned for in the budget.

Ingrid Scobie mentioned the Barnes and Noble (B & N) fund raiser. Tom of B & N said the most ever made by an organization was \$1000, but it is more typically \$200. B & N vouchers to activate the fund raising can be handed out to anyone, anywhere except the mall on the event day with the exception of the VAST table that will be setup in B & N for the calendar signing.

### **High School Update by Craig Nance**

Craig Nance will pass a volunteer sign up sheet for the High School Lecture Series at the general meeting. The volunteers are artists making themselves available to high school instructors to enhance the curriculum or art club functions, etc. For the Art Supply Drive, an email has been sent to teachers asking what supplies would be beneficial to them. The art supply donations will be an ongoing project.

### **Newsletter Update by Lynne Cagle**

Devon and Lynne will repeat last month's procedure of brainstorming for newsletter ideas again with emails to be sent to those who need to contribute articles. Drawing numbers for the Member Spotlight produced the following list in order: Dave Maxwell, Tom Judd, Erin DeGenaro, Leslie Kregel, Dave Shrader and Judy Stewart. A discussion concerning Members Doing Great Things revealed that some members continually repeat the same news. The consensus was that the news should be new information and be current events only. Lynne Cagle concluded that no policy statement was needed as yet, but the current event aspect of the news would be emphasized.

### **Gala Update by Ingrid Scobie**

Ingrid announced 2 tables have been reserved by the UNT's School of Visual Arts, 1 table possibly by the UNT President, 1 ½ tables by Rob Erdle when he converted his honorarium to tickets (\$500). And 5 or 6 tables are full of members so far. 3 were as a result of a workshop. Sponsor level tables will get priority seating, then it is first come first served. The total available tables is 28. Rob Erdle has a massive mailing list that is at our disposal for this event. Ingrid would also like to target the Asian community because of the theme of the show.

### **Calendar Update by Ingrid Scobie**

Ingrid announced the VAST calendar signing will be from 2 – 4 pm Saturday, November 19 in conjunction with the VAST fund raising promotion. The original work selected for the calendar will be hung Friday, November 4 at The Cupboard and remain on exhibit through the month. It was mentioned by calendar signing participants that the October signing at Voertman's was not as good as last year.

### **Announcements/General Discussion**

Lynne Cagle announced that Denton's branch of AAUW fundraiser is Sun, Dec 4, 1-5 pm with a home tour of Forestridge.

Lynne Cagle announced that Mary Chapin of the North Texas TV station interview her about VAST, but the color of the video was bad. Therefore, Mary would be at tonight's general meeting to tape footage and then re-interview Lynne at a later date.

Becca Hines asked for clarification of seating for Gala volunteers. Volunteers last year sat at the registration table. This year, if they paid, the volunteers can sit with guests but will be seated where they have accessibility to help.

Robin Butt mentioned that the phone number listed in the newspaper for contacting Kathy Mendes in regards to calendar sales was a fax number which made her unreachable.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45.