

MINUTES FOR THE ARTISANS  
GENERAL MEETING  
JUNE 15, 2021

Attendees: Nancy Adelis, Carolyn Carrol, Becky Cleary, Jane Corrie, Linnea Coyle, Jeanne Crouse, Donna Davis, Judith Dragos, Patricia Gavin, Pren Halladay, Kathy Caruso, Karen Hiteshew, Kristine Holt, Mary Jones, Bob Kanich, Donna Kanich, Shelia Kempf, Carol Kidd, Kathy Lenihan, Marian MacKerer, Gary Mlynek, Christine Noble, Nick Noble, Paula Rosen, Nancy Schulte, Carol Szot, Barbara White, Diane Wyte, Nancy Young, Ted Zawistowski,

AN ARTISANS GENERAL MEETING WAS held on Tuesday, June 15th at the Woodlands Pavilion in St. James. Donna Kanich, president, called the meeting to order at 5:13 pm following a potluck supper. Donna introduced new members: Bob Kanich. Donna explained the requirements for being a member of the Artisans which includes owning or renting property in St James, serving on committees, and paying annual membership dues. Artisans can participate in "Art Walks", "Art in the Park" and the "Holiday Boutique". In addition, there are Exhibiting Artists that live outside of St. James and are eligible to participate in the Gallery events only. Donna stated that June 15 is the one-year anniversary of The Artisans Gallery on Howe.

Judith Dragos gave the Artistic Integrity report. In the past 6 months the committee has juried 70 artists. Each artist submits new items for jurying. Both Judith and Donna thanked the Artistic Integrity Committee for their help - Diane Wyte, Becky Cleary, and Susan Shaylor.

Carol Szot gave the Membership Report. Currently there are 78 Artisans, which is down from the 100 who belonged last year. Carol asked everyone to encourage other artists to join our group and review the jurying process. All membership dues have been collected. Carol has talked to several groups about joining the gallery. We would like more 3D artists.

Donna Kanich gave the treasurers report for Cathie Eldridge. The checking and money market accounts have \$61,582.52. May sales were approximately \$9,200. Retail sales for Art in the Park were \$10,727. There are still challenges with the inventory spreadsheets. The issue was discussed. Linnea Coyle suggested that people could be paid to prepare SKU's in the same way that substitute Gallery workers are paid. Donna said that she would discuss the suggestion with Cathie Eldridge to clarify if that would be acceptable. Several other suggestions were made by the members present. Donna explained the difference in inventory spreadsheets, one for new items and one for duplicate items. All forms are on the Artisans website. It was also suggested that samples be posted on the website.

Donna Davis gave the Communications Report. Donna is mainly using social media to publicize events, as well as word of mouth. Donna thanked Su Peyton and Nick Noble for their help in generating publicity. Holiday Boutique will Communications work will begin in July. Sneak Peeks for Arts on the Porch, Art in the Park, and featured artists will continue. Donna reminded the group that she can't put Artisans-only events on outside social media pages because they are specific to St James.

Marian MacKerer and Kris Holt presented the Retail Report. Art in the Park was very successful. There were 37 participants. Tables were spread out and shared even though Covid restrictions have been relaxed just prior to the event. The green shopping bags will be used for the next event, which will be easier for customers. Several Artisans commented that they liked the spacing because it allowed for shoppers to stand next to tables and not create congestion for other shoppers. A few more tables can be added to allow more Artisans to be part of the Labor Day event.

The Gallery continues to offer special events to draw in customers and bring awareness to our location. Space in the downstairs back room is dedicated to special displays. Currently items in red, white, and blue are featured to celebrate 4th of July. Christmas in July will be featured from July 11-31.

Art on the Porch opportunities are available. Nick Noble will be featured on July 2nd. We have a musician scheduled to perform July 3rd. Kate Magill-Walters and Ann McElroy will be featured on July 17th. Gina Poppe will be inside the Gallery on August 21st as a featured artist.

Gallery Update. We are working on improvements to the jewelry display. The round table was placed in front of the chrome display case to bring awareness to linens and soften the view when entering the Gallery. We will meet with Judy Peterson to hear her ideas about improving the displays in the first floor back room.

There has been a problem with baskets and pillows fading in the upstairs rooms. We will be putting film protection on those windows.

Holiday Boutique information will be sent out later this summer. The Holiday Boutique will take place at the St James Community Center.

Donna Kanich explained the issue of seeing alcohol at events. The ABC policy requires a license for an event that is private, and the Community Center required a fee of \$50 room rental if there is food and drink served. If we host an event that is open to the public, such as The Art Walk or first Friday no ABC license is required.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55pm. Carol Kidd made the motion with Barbara White seconding. The next General Meeting will be in October.