

Friends of Multi Arts Meeting-May 8, 2006

The meeting was called to order by Judy Laine and Earline Strom.

There were 10 people present for this meeting: Marjorie Hammer, Staci Willis, Mike Smolen, Carol Fincher, Helen Jordan, Sherrill Lewis, Claire Zevnik-Cline, Lynn Schwartz, Earline Strom, and Judy Laine.

The April minutes were read individually. A correction to the spelling of Claire Zevnik's name was made. Someone from the floor motioned for the minutes to be accepted and the motion was seconded.

Karen Dean was not present, so there was no treasurer's report.

Under old business there was discussion about whether by-laws should be initially approved by the board or by the general membership. The board was not able to go over the new by-laws since Hannah Barbara was not present. Judy will check with other organizations to see how they proceeded with their by-laws.

Mike Smolen said there were no changes with the web site. He needs for people to send him information to put on the web. He had not received a schedule to post. There was discussion about putting profiles for Friends members on the web. There was a question about why profiles should be posted. Members from the board felt that artists' profiles help to validate the Multi Arts and bring interest and recognition. Mike suggested that someone might design a format for people to submit their information. Sherrill and Judy thought that they might be able to put together some ideas for this format for our next meeting.

Staci Willis reported results for the Art Festival. There had been 60 volunteers, of which 20 were from Friends of Multi. More two-dimensional artists were needed. Better cash prizes and more recognition might bring more artists. There was discussion about purchase awards for next year and about getting judges for a juried festival. Everyone was encouraged to brainstorm for next year's event.

Other information about the Festival shared was as follows:

- The concert was not very successful. Only 70 seats were sold. It might be better to have held it at the Festival area.
- The Friends' brochures were great. We did not have any banners for our tables as planned. We are not sure why they were not made as promised.
- The artists really appreciated the water and fruit. They were impressed by all that had been done for them. There was not a great deal of response to the food offered for the participants of the Art Festival Friday evening. Input was most people did not know we had the food there.
- Earline shared that representatives from Friends of Multi had only been invited to one planning meeting for the Festival.

Next on the agenda was discussion of progress on our 501c3 application. Linda Reynolds at the public library said that donations to the library were covered under the Stillwater Public Library Trust which is a 506. She sends a thank you note to the donor, and then the donor can take the thank you to their accountant to figure out the tax deduction.

We next discussed the need for a newsletter. Since we have the website, it was generally felt we did not need a written newsletter. The exception was for those people who do not have e-mail. A newsletter could be written and left at Multi, so people could come by and pick it up. Further discussion was left until a later meeting.

Claire and Judy are still working to revise the brochure and logo.

A report on the membership meeting in April was given. Only 18 people were present. The list of those present is available upon request. Some board members felt that more contact with general members was needed to remind them of the meeting. Maybe after sending an e-mail a follow up phone call could be made. Suggestions to get more people involved were made. It might help that if twice a year we could have a social dinner where everyone just could visit and get to know each other. Maybe we could have a special "show" in September. It was decided there was a need for a social committee to come up with ideas. Hannah Barbara and Karen are good at this. Perhaps people from the general committee could be involved.

Judy is continuing with grant research. She will call a Target store to find out qualifications for their grant. She had read in the CREC newsletter about grants and she will call to find out that information.

Judy made a presentation to the Parks and Recreation board last Wed. at noon. The board seemed interest, and Judy felt they were receptive of our ideas.

New business for this month was shelved until next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.