Docent Advisory Board

New Orleans Museum of Art

March13, 2017

Present:

DAB Chair: Cynthia Kolb

Chair Elect: Naomi Kornman

Treasurer: Carmen Leerstang

Wednesday Day Captain: Mary Beth Gulotta

Thursday Day Captain: Pat Jackson

Friday Day Captain: Barbara Harris

Adult Docent Representative: Pat Loughran

Members at Large: Cheryl Kain, Joanna Giorlando, Peggy Patterson

Apprentice Representative: Michelle D’Amour

Apprentice Docents: Melissa Fanning, Connie Traub, Jen Burstain

Curator of Education: Tracy Kennan

Call to Order:

Meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m.

Previous Minutes:

The minutes of the previous meeting were read. Cynthia moved to accept and Naomi seconded. Motion passed.

Treasurer and Sunshine Report:

Carmen reported that a sympathy card was sent to Mary Schumann and a moving away card to Ann deBessonet. No additional funds have been collected since last report.

Touring:

1. Day Captain Reports:

Mary Beth reported that Wednesday docents are preparing for Newman’s requested tour “Native Americans and Pioneers.”

Barbara reported that Friday tours are doing well, and she expects to get some new docents, including Kathy and Mike Boudreaux. Cheryl will be filling in as Friday Day Captain while Barbara goes out of town for three weeks.

Pat J. reports that Mike Boudreaux will be doing Thursday tours as well.

2. Docent Representative Reports:

Michelle reported that because meeting with the apprentice docents was not always productive, she tried something different: she sent them emails and asked them to respond in writing with their concerns. She shared some of their responses (without naming names in order to protect their privacy). The responses were mostly favorable, with some constructive criticism such as wanting more explicit goals and due dates. Naomi noted that their responses will be helpful in connection with the review of the mentoring program. Melissa added that due dates help docents prepare for touring as well as keep up with the others.

Pat L. reported that she and Tracy plan another training session for adult docents, with focus on the need to have a theme. Naomi noted that this would also be good for someone who will be a “hybrid”. Tracy suggested that at the beginning of the (school) year we might identify the themes that we offer (like we do for school tours). Pat L. and Tracy will work together on this.

Mentoring Program:

Michelle suggested creating a survey that could be filled out at a meeting. Melissa proposed an after-action review, which would be more in depth than an evaluation, with separate ones for mentors and apprentice docents. Question of whether to fill out in a meeting (where we are certain to get it back) or take home. Cynthia suggested this was Tracy’s call . Cheryl favored keeping it simple and streamlined.

Upcoming Docent Events:

1. Tracy reported that the Friday Social is all set, with 40-some people expected to attend. Final count to be given to Diane Chesson today.

2. No firm plans yet for the Louisville, KY, trip – Mary Schumann is looking into possible dates.

3. Pat J. reported 44 people have expressed interest in touring the art studio of James Michalopoulos.

4. Tracy advised that our Final Event will be held on May 22.

5. Pat J. updated us on possible plans for trip to Crystal Bridges, AR. Bebe Babst is the POC.

Slate for Upcoming April 24 Election:

Pat J. moved for a new slate of nominees for the DAB. Cynthia seconded. Motion passed unanimously. New slate is as follows:

Chair Elect: Cheryl Kain

Corresponding Secretary/Treasurer: Carmen Leerstang

Recording Secretary: Peggy Patterson

Members at Large (3): Joanna Giorlando, Michelle D’Amour,

Jennifer Burstain

Pat J. stated that the new slate would have to be presented to IAE tomorrow. Also good idea to include slate, as well as the revised By-Laws, in the (new publication) Docent News, for purposes of transparency.

Proposed Revisions to By-Laws:

Proposed change would reinstate the one-year limitation on the Chair. Cynthia moved to accept; Joanna seconded. Motion passed. Subject to IAE approval.

Naomi pointed out that the appointed (vs. elected) positions expire in June, when the DAB does not meet. Pat J. suggested this could be accomplished via email.

New Business:

Cheryl suggested having a function for people interested in being docents. Tracy pointed out the good turnout produced by the recruiting efforts of this past year, with both May and August functions.

Cynthia moved to adjourn the meeting; Pat J. seconded. Meeting adjourned at 1 p.m.

Above minutes submitted by Peggy Patterson