Docent Advisory Board

New Orleans Museum of Art

February 20, 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, Peggy Patterson

Apprentice Representative: Michelle D’Amour

Apprentice Docents: Melissa Fanning, Connie Traub

Call to Order:

Meeting was called to order at 12:40 p.m.

Motion was made and accepted for the temporary appointment of Peggy Patterson to assume the Recording Secretary’s duties due to Mary Schumann’s recent resignation from that office.

Previous Minutes:

Minutes of the January 23 meeting were accepted, with the correction of one typographical error noted by Carmen: Under Treasurer’s Report, Minutes should say “Zaslow” not “Laslow.”

Treasurer and Sunshine Report:

Carmen reported that a “thank-you” card has been sent to M.S. Rau for their recent curator-led tours. Also, a “thinking of you” card has been sent to Naomi.

Touring:

1. Day Captain Reports:

Mary Beth reported that Wednesday tours have been very light, but are expected to pick up in March.

Pat J. reported that there are some days when Thursday docents could use some additional help.

Barbara reported that there are times when more docents would be helpful and hopes some Apprentice Docents will join them on Fridays.

2. Docent Representative Reports:

Michelle reported that things are going well with the Apprentice Docents, with some moving along faster than others.

Melissa made a motion for an after-action review of the Mentoring Program and Pat J. seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Pat L. reported that she has met for the first time with all the Adult Docents and discussed themes for their tours (one has already picked). She will try to meet with them once a month following training. She also reported that tours have been light now that Roads Scholars tours have stopped. Pat L. said a lot of Apprentice Docents are concerned about opportunities to present their two pieces. Ways to increase adult patronage were discussed. Pat J. suggested Apprentice Docents might shadow High School tours and some could present. Pat J. offered to attend Pat L’s adult meetings and Pat L. accepted the offer.

General Comments/Questions Re Mentoring Program:

1. Question regarding whether Apprentice Docents can do Mini Masters only or need to sign up for School Tours as well– need to check with Tracy. Also, Pat J. noted that Apprentice Docents may not present at Artful Minds tours, per Tracy.

2. Possible reasons for attrition in the Apprentice Program were discussed, including lack of screening and unawareness of expected commitment. Pat J. emphasized the importance of the commitment statement that Apprentice Docents must sign. Also, there was a question about identifying the initial NOMA POC for someone interested in joining the Program.

Comments on Past Events:

There was overall resounding praise for the recent Volunteer Appreciation event in the Café.

Upcoming Docent Events:

1. Visit to art studio of James Michalopoulos – Pat J. is looking for someone who knows the artist to act as a POC.

2. Trip to Louisville’s Speed Museum– need to check with Ann Duffy, settle on a date, pass interest sheet around.

3. Trip to Crystal Bridges, AR– need to pass interest sheet around.

4. Cynthia proposed a visit to Newcomb’s (free) exhibit of female artist portraiture focusing on portrayal of female beauty in our culture. Question about availability of curator. Pat J. suggested that a Monday after training would be the best time.

5. Trip to L.A.’s Getty Museum – Barbara raised the issue that the protocol involved in arranging such a trip (which probably would occur June of 2018) requires that contacts be made through certain channels, including Education Dept. and Susan Taylor’s office.

6. The Docent Social is scheduled for Friday, March 17, from 5:30 – 7:30 in the NOMA Board Room. $20 per person; guests are welcome.

New Business:

1. Pat J. gave an overview and presentation of the proposed changes to the By-Laws. Discussion followed, with additional changes being proposed as well. Cynthia raised the question of whether Members at Large should have more defined duties. General consensus was that duties should remain very general since this office is viewed as an entry position for newer Docents to become familiar with the Board before assuming greater responsibilities. Following discussion, Peggy moved that the DAB vote on the By-Laws as further amended and Carmen seconded. The Board unanimously approved the By-Laws as further amended. Pat J. to revise accordingly.

2. The proposed slate for the upcoming elections was discussed, as follows:

Chair: Naomi Kornman

Chair Elect: Cheryl Kain

Corresponding Secretary/Treasurer: Carmen Leerstang

Adult Rep: Pat Loughran

Apprentice Rep: Connie Traub

Recording Secretary: Jennifer Burstain

Members at Large: Joanna Giorlando, Peggy Patterson, Michelle D’Amour

Parliamentarian: Melissa Fanning

Pat J. advised that she is preparing a new nominating form, which will allow for on-line nominations.

Naomi moved to adjourn the meeting; Pat L. seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Above minutes submitted by Peggy Patterson