

DOCENT COUNCIL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Santa Barbara Museum of Art
Date: May 13, 2020
Conducted via Zoom due to museum closure for COVID-19

Present: Molora Vadnais; Patty Santiago; David Reichert; Jeff Vitucci; Pattie Firestone; Vikki Duncan; Christine Holland; Teda Pilcher; Irene Stone; Sarajum Quazi; Joan Dewhirst; Gail Stichler; Mary Ellen Hoffman
Museum Education Department: Patsy Hicks
Absent: Ralph Wilson

CALL TO ORDER: Molora Vadnais

Molora called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. The Minutes of the Docent Board Meeting of April 8, 2020 were approved.

BOARD REPORTS:

President: Molora Vadnais

Molora went over her report, covering her tenure since February. (See attached President's Final Report) She talked about having surveyed those docents not on the board by phone or email. 39 will remain active, 5 will go Leave of Absence or Sustaining, 12 are maybes. With the 19 provisional docents, we should be in shape to continue Council activities when able to do so.

First action item: To allow docents to remain active during 2020-21 without joining a touring team if concerned about coronavirus exposure. Molora's main concern was to keep next year's board together; she doesn't foresee a lot of touring during this coming service year. Molora moved to approve, Jeff seconded. Brief discussion and the motion passed.

Second action item: To withdraw the motion tabled from March to enter into the record the "Issues for Future Review" submitted by the By-Laws Committee, Ralph's March 6 e-mail regarding bylaws issues, and Vikki's March 11 e-mail regarding same. These would cause confusion if entered into the record; next year's board can handle the topic if it so chooses. Withdrawn, no vote needed.

Third action item: We are ordinarily supposed to have a double board meeting in June. According to the by-laws, the transfer of responsibility to the new board is right after June meeting. All board business for the 2019-20 service year has concluded. Molora proposed cancellation of the June meeting and automatic transfer of responsibility on June 1. Joan so moved and Gail seconded. Pattie called for discussion from the perspective of someone new to the board. Discussion was had. Jeff, as Treasurer, suggested transfer on July 1 as fiscal year ends June 30. However, the bylaws call for transfer in June. A vote was taken to cancel the June meeting due to expected Museum closure and Zoom logistics, and automatically transfer responsibility on June 1.

Finally, Molora commented on the weekly *La Muse* and kudos to Lori.

Vice President: Patty Santiago

Patty went over her report and then also covered her provisional co-chair portion. She and Ralph have been meeting with provisionals via Zoom. The provisionals are preparing virtual tours for final evaluation. They know how to choose pieces, research them, give 3-minute talks, and use transitions to link the talks into tours. Gisela Balents has withdrawn, 19 are left. Patsy gave a "huge thank you" to Patty and Ralph. Patty then left for another meeting.

Teda broached the question of recruitment for next year. Patsy thought not enough information to proceed at this point. Discussion was had. The incoming board will decide how to handle the recruitment of the next provisional class.

(See attached Vice President End of Year Report.)

Secretary: David Reichert

Nothing to report except for internet service interruption. I called for members to supply by e-mail anything that I missed due to Zoom feed dropping.

Treasurer: Jeff Vitucci

Went over his report. (See attached Treasurer's Report)

Action item: Molora moved to appropriate \$14.99 per month for April-October for Zoom account, Joan seconded. Motion approved.

No action item for banking costs, as Montecito Bank and Trust waived the costs.

June Treasurer's report can be approved by incoming board in the fall.

Membership: Pattie Firestone

No final report for this year right now. A lot of docents have not reported their hours. Awards will be given "whenever we can finally meet." Talked about honoring Ricki Morse and other awardees in *La Muse* in advance of awards ceremony. In addition, formal letters will go to each awardee.

Action item: Motion to set aside the requirement that an active docent must give 8 tours per service year to acquire service credit for the year when the museum remodel, museum closure or natural disaster has impacted the docent's ability to fulfill this requirement. This motion is retroactive to service year 2013-14 and will continue until the museum is open and no longer under construction. Pattie so moved and Jeff seconded. Passed.

Adult Teams: Christine Holland and Vikki Duncan

Went over their report. They were able to place each docent on their first or second choice touring team.

(See attached Adult Teams Year-End Report and Statistics for February and March)

Student Tours: Irene Stone and Teda Pilcher

Went over their report, highlighting that it did not include qualitative information. Teacher and team leader evaluations are currently inaccessible due to Museum closure.

(See attached Year End Summary of Student Tours)

Provisional Chairs: Patty Santiago and Ralph Wilson

See under Vice President Report.

Research: Sarajum Quazi

Molora asked if Sarajum had any takers for the research projects proposed in *La Muse*. Marcos Christodoulou is writing a paper on one of the classical sculptures, Loree is writing on the kylix. 5 pieces are still awaiting papers; Molora suggested re-advertising these in *La Muse*.

Evaluations: Joan Dewhirst

Went over her report. This year only 4 active docents were needing to be evaluated for Docent's Choice/Highlights. 2 were evaluated and 2 remain if those docents decide to stay with Docent's Choice/Highlights. 4 docents (3 senior active and 1 New Active) were evaluated on student touring; 6 senior active docents remain to be evaluated if they are touring students in 2020-21.

(See attached Evaluations Chair Year-End Report)

Webmaster: Gail Stichler

Molora and Patsy thanked the 4 board members going off (Joan Dewhirst, Mary Ellen Hoffman, Ralph Wilson and myself). Irene led the thanks to Molora for her service as acting President.

Gail went over her report (see attached Webmaster Annual Report); commented on the tricks and inconsistencies of WordPress. Mike Ramey is making the website more consistent; e.g. labeling docent research papers with (R).

Past President/ Nominations: Mary Ellen Hoffman

Went over her report. (See attached Nominations Committee Year-End Report)

Museum Report: Patsy Hicks

Year of unprecedented change and challenge.

Patsy and Rachael Kriebs remain in touch. Michelle West came after Rachael; Patsy praised Michelle's service to us before she moved on to an artist residency in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Rachel Heidenry will be our next Manager of Docent and Academic Programs.

A couple of docents have written to express concern about turnover in the docent/ education manager position. Patsy stressed continued excellence regardless of who holds the job. Many people now change slots more rapidly than in years past. It is unusual for one to stay 16 years as Rachael did before moving to Sonos.

Huber and Mike are discussing protocols for opening the Museum. Safety is the primary goal.

Patsy has ideas for alternatives to touring, if traditional touring is not feasible.

In terms of exhibitions and curatorial, budgets are being re-examined. More exhibitions will be coming from permanent collection.

Van Gogh has been postponed to February 2022.

For at least a couple of years, part of Davidson will become a "works on paper study center"

I asked about "Gallery Guides." Patsy replied that they are student interns from City College and UCSB. They are greeters, mostly first-language Spanish. Their role is complementary to that of docents. They are not junior docents or competitors in any way.

There was no old business and no new business.

ADJOURNMENT: Molora Vадnais

The meeting was adjourned at 11:18 a.m.

The next Docent Council Board Meeting (new board) will be September 9, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.

Note: Monthly Board Reports, when approved, are filed behind the Minutes in the Docent Council Board Meeting Minutes Binder located in the Docent Office.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Reichert, Docent Council Secretary