

Swanton Arts Council
Board Meeting Minutes
March 20, 2017
Swanton Public Library

Attendees: Scott Rheume, Nicole Gadouas, Judy Paxman, Sara Hayes, Becky Rupp, Marie Speer, Anita Michele Parah, Nicole Draper, Julia Draper, Carrie Beauregard, Heather Buczkowski, Dave Winchester, Ashley Bowen, Roger Lindala, Tonya Caswell, Tim Santimore, Evan Metayer.

Meeting leader: Scott Rheume
Recording secretary: Becky Rupp
Timekeeper: Marie Speer

Meeting called to order at 6 PM.

- Minutes of 1/30/2017 approved. Motion by Judy Paxman; second by Nicole Gadouas.
- Strategic planning goals of 2/8/2017 approved. Motion by Scott Rheume; second by Marie Speer.
- Marie Speer presented the finance report. Current balance of SAC account is \$2744.56. Recent donations include \$135 from contributions at the Youth Art Show and \$27.50 from Hannaford Market.
- Judy Paxman summarized available art-related grants. The Vermont Arts Council offers a Creation Grant for individuals or groups, with a non-matching award of \$3000; a Cultural Facilities Grant, with a 50% matching component; an Arts Partnership Grant, which would require the SAC to work with an established community organization such as the library or Swanton Recreation; and an Arts Impact Grant. The fall round of funding for Vermont Humanities grants is accepting applications due this summer; Judy suggested applying for funding for the "Meet My Medium" project.
- Sign-up sheets for focus groups were distributed. Groups are being assembled to organize art classes; research possibilities for an artists' co-op and/or studio space; install a kinetic sculpture or sculptures in town; investigate funding possibilities; and to look into the establishment of a Creation Space at the Teen Center. Becky Rupp suggested interfacing the Teen Center Creation Space with the library/SAC Makerspace. Anyone interested in signing up for the following projects should contact:
 - Organizing Art Classes – Nicole Gadouas
 - Funding possibilities for the SAC – Judy Paxman
 - Kinetic Sculpture focus group – Judy Paxman

- Artist Co-op/ Studio Space– Judy Paxman
 - Teen Center Creation Space – Nicole Draper
- Roger Lindala has volunteered to do a video version of the history of the SAC. Judy Paxman requested funding for a plaque to be put in place at the My-T-Fine Restaurant, at a cost not to exceed \$50. Motion made by Dave Winchester; seconded by Nicole Gadouas. Approved. A sign-up sheet was circulated for potential participants in the project. Judy suggested the Roger be elevated to full SAC membership and a place on the SAC Governing Body for taking on this project, which was approved.
- Nicole Draper summarized the on-going publicity project. She has established a master list of publicity contacts and designed a publicity form to be used by SAC event planners. She has also instituted a discussion with Vermont Tourism and Marketing, with the aim of acquiring statewide support for Swanton. As approved in an earlier meeting, this project has already been approved as a SAC project and makes Nicole eligible for the Governing Body.
- Becky Rupp gave an update on Makerspace progress. A sign-up sheet was circulated for volunteers willing to help move items out of the library Makerspace storage room. A meeting will be scheduled to discuss how to spend remaining Makerspace grant money. Anyone interested in participating in this meeting should contact Becky Rupp.
- Sara Hayes provided an update on the SAC online gallery. Photos for the gallery can be sent to Sara. Sara expressed concern with the format of the gallery. Judy will reach out to Alex to assist in updating the format.
- Judy Paxman discussed the SAC's next entry for the Northwest Nightmares Film Festival: "Swanee: Apprentice Avengence." A sign-up sheet was circulated for those interested in participating. Auditions are planned for May; filming planned for May and June. Katie Foster and Heather Buczkowski will edit the production; Evan Metayer will contribute a musical score. Anyone interested in participating in any capacity to this film should contact Judy Paxman.
- Judy Paxman discussed possibilities for a One-Minute Film Festival that was conceptualized during the Emerging Artist Award judging. This would take the form of a dinner theater in which participants would buy tickets, view the films, and vote on the winner. Both the My-T-Fine Restaurant, as venue, and Elizabeth Malone of Channel 15 TV support this project. More information will follow at future meetings and SAC member updates. If you are interested in participating in any capacity, please contact Judy Paxman.
- Anita Michele Parah summarized plans for Pinwheel Day, which will take place on Saturday, May 20, 10 AM – 3 PM, with a rain date of June 3. The first Pinwheel

Creation workshop will take place on Tuesday, March 21, 6 PM, at the Teen Center. Anita Michele is requesting donations of plastic flashing, cotton fabric, fabric markers, rubbing alcohol, liquid ink, spray paint, and old sheets or tarps, to be collected at the library. Becky Rupp will arrange for this with the library and will publish a call for donations on social media. For more information on the Pinwheel's in the Park project, contact Anita Michele Parah.

- The SAC Archives status update was moved ahead to the next agenda.
- Becky Rupp discussed the Art Bop, which will take place on Saturday, April 22, and will involve art displays at a number of local libraries. Becky will contact library director Michelle Beaulieu about drop-off times for art contributions and display plans. If you are interested in participating in the Art Bop contact Michelle Beaulieu or Becky Rupp.
- Nicole Gadouas requested funding of approximately \$350 to attend the National Arts Education Association (NAEA) conference on behalf of the SAC and the VT Creative Network on June 8-9. Motion by Judy Paxman; second by Becky Rupp. Approved.
- Judy Paxman reviewed SAC intern possibilities and their projects. Anyone interested in additional intern possibilities should contact Judy Paxman or any SAC Board member.
 - Grace Kinney will be assessing Instagram possibilities for artists
 - Sophie Nichols has expressed interest in creating a framework for selling art in Swanton
 - Sam Choiniere is in the process of creating a video archive of the 2017 Spring Youth Art Show
 - Alexandria Paxman has agreed to serve as to serve as a Marketing and Organizational Growth Consultant, focusing on SAC growth, sustainability in addition to positive marketing of our mission
 - Julia Draper, our first youth intern, will explore her own art and assess what SAC activities are relevant to a middle-school age group
 - Sydney Spaulding has expressed interest in a one-time project that focuses on improving health through art. She will be contacted to discuss a research project for future grants and art shows.
- Vermont Precision Tools had donated 3300 yards of filter paper suitable for a wide variety of uses. A sign-up sheet was circulated for those who would like some; or potential users can contact Judy Paxman.
- Nicole Gadouas presented an after-action report on the Youth Art Show, which was a spectacular success. An estimated 300 persons visited the show. Concern was expressed at the amount of local media attention. Becky Rupp suggested that next year we write our own stories and submit them to area papers. Becky volunteered to do this. Ashley Bowen would like to promote the Emerging Artist Award more

effectively, hopefully bringing in more participants.

- Though Darci Benoit was not present to report, she has successfully put all the SAC information on our Google Calendar and shared our info with the Swanton Community Calendar. Darci will monitor and update the SAC google calendar.
- A sign-up sheet was circulated for those interested in implementing Artists' Gatherings for informal get-togethers in April, May and June. All members are encouraged to gather to share their art.
- A sign-up sheet was circulated for suggestions for alternative meeting venues for the SAC. Carrie Beauregard pointed out that, for out-of-towners, a reproducible, easy-to-find location that is well publicized is preferable. Next meeting venue to be determined.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.