

Minutes Mead Public Library Ad Hoc Arts & Facilities Committee July 29, 2021

A meeting of the Mead Public Library (MPL) Art Committee was held on Friday, July 29, 2021. Present committee members: Chris Campe (online), chair, Barbara Alvarez, Andre Walton and Sherry Speth.

Additional Board Members present: Maeve Quinn.

Staff present: Garrett Erickson, Melissa Prentice and Erica Huntzinger.

1. OPENING OF MEETING

1.1 CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM. Campe called the meeting to order at 11: 04 a.m. She determined there was a quorum present.

1.2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES. Speth moved to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2021 meeting. Alvarez seconded. The motion passed.

2. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

2.1 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON CREATION OF AN ART POLICY Erickson started the discussion by stating at the last art committee meeting, the group had asked Mead management to emulate the art policy of the Madison Public Library.

Subsequently, Erickson had contacted Madison Public Library Director Greg Mickells who said he had no problem with Mead using their policy language.

Erickson went through a rough draft of the proposed new art policy.

Huntzinger stated that current art collection does not reflect the diversity of Sheboygan.

The group discussed what an art de-acquisition process might look like.

Currently, when a citizen offers a formal complaint about a library book, the complaint is reviewed by an appointed staff committee, and if the citizen is not happy with the outcome, they can ask the library board to review the complaint as well.

The committee members asked Erickson to put a similar process in place for artwork complaints at the library.

Alvarez asked staff to clarify some of the language in the proposed policy.

Erickson stated that he had talked with Travis Gross from the historical society and that Gross stated that the historical society would likely accept the Cameron Murals if the library board decided to part ways with them.

Huntzinger stated that she had asked staff from the John Michael Kohler Art Center to look at the Cameron Murals to see how difficult they would be to remove from their current location.

The consensus was that the murals could be brought down and actually should be, soon. Since the artwork is not in a climate controlled environment, the group noticed degradation to one of the pieces that should be rectified soon.

Huntzinger was asked to get a budgetary quote for safely pulling down and transporting the murals.

Campe was tasked with writing follow up letters to each citizen who had written the committee with their opinions on how to handle the murals.

At the next art committee meeting, Erickson was asked to add a public comment section to the agenda.

The committee will attempt to meet again in August or September to continue the conversation.

2.2 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON CAMERON MURALS IN QUIET STUDY ROOM.

The committee tabled this agenda item until after an art policy is approved by the full board of trustees.

3. UPCOMING MEETINGS

3.1 NEXT MEETING: TBD

4. ADJOURN

4.1 ADJOURN. Campe adjourned the meeting at 11: 41 a.m.