

Meeting Minutes  
YAKIMA VALLEY ARTISTS ASSOCIATION  
July 20, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

The first meeting of our Association since February of this year was held at 5 p.m. on Monday afternoon, July 20, 2020. Because of Covid 19 social distancing protocols which have forced the closure of the Harman Center, we met outside at the home of Linda and Larry Kirkpatrick in West Valley. The Kirkpatricks have graciously volunteered their lovely homestead to accommodate our association for meetings during this unsettling time. They have plenty of room outside to allow safe social distancing. In attendance were

Kate Bowditch  
Mary Jepsen  
Lynn Maiocco  
Judy Benefiel  
Linda Kirkpatrick  
Karan Batterton

Lorie Morris  
Kris Knight  
Mike Mullen  
Pam Searcy

#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Kate Bowditch, our Vice-President and now Acting President spoke about the importance of our Association and the need for artists to have support, especially during this unsettling time. It has been difficult to keep in contact since our normal places to meet have been closed. Our Association has been impacted in that we have not been able to encourage or support creativity in a group setting. There is some evidence that even after reopening, the Harman Center may not accommodate art classes because of close contact. Kate encouraged all of us to campaign for the resumption of Thursday and Friday art classes when the center reopens. We need support from one another.

Some discussion took place about the new construction across the street from Yakima Valley College which is an expansion of the Art Department (Gallery? Classrooms?). Wouldn't it be great if some of those classrooms would be available to groups such as ours? We were all curious about the timetable for completion of the

construction, its purpose, etc. Lorie Morris volunteered to try and get some information in that regard.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Mary Jepsen itemized income and expenses so far this year which included payments for business license and fees for the post office box, as well as payments to the Harman Center. As of June 30, 2020 the balance in our account was \$975.32. Detailed expense accounts are available from Mary.

Mary also explained the difficulties involved with paying business taxes, making it necessary to have help with tax preparation. She will consult a neighbor who works for Petersen Financial Advisors.

Further discussion of dues took place and it was decided to prorate dues to the end of this year, based primarily on the lack of normal meetings during this Pandemic.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### 1. Reorganization.

In a prior meeting, board members have been discussing the possibility of changing our Association from a "business model" to a "club (or association) model." The primary focus for all of us is and always will be our love of art and the joy of associating with and learning from each other. Business models and the responsibilities of so much detailed paperwork have taken a toll on the board members. At this time, a discussion about dissolving our business license took place. It appears to be a perfect time to do such a thing in that so many businesses are failing because of Covid. Pam Searcy and Mike Mullen were a great help in answering questions about business licenses, etc. As an Association (as opposed to a Business) we can still enjoy meeting on a regular basis without having to be concerned with paying taxes, etc. We can still have art shows, contribute to a fund for scholarships, etc.

As a result of this discussion, the following motions were made and seconded:



- (1) That YVAA move to dissolve its business license, and
- (2) That YVAA move to reorganize as an Association/Club of Artists to support our art and our Community.

The decision to reorganize must be brought before and voted on by the whole membership. [However, it has become apparent that before a vote can be taken to reorganize YVAA, both a resolution to support dissolution of the corporation, and an amendment to the articles of incorporation must be brought before the general membership.<sup>1</sup>

And so even though the motion(s) to reorganize were brought before the meeting on this date, it has been determined by the Board members that we must follow the correct steps as outlined in our Bylaws. At our meeting in August, a new motion will be called for.

## 2. New Officers

Following further discussion, it was determined that either way (with or without a business license) the Association will need officers to keep it organized. Volunteers willing to serve as President, Secretary, Treasurer (or Secretary/Treasurer) are being asked to step forward. The current officers are nearing the end of their term of service and are ready to retire.

*If you are willing to serve in one of these positions, please step forward!*

At this meeting, Mary Jepsen tendered her resignation as Treasurer.

Thanks to Mike Mullen who has agreed to maintain our Association Website ([Yakimavalleyartists.com](http://Yakimavalleyartists.com)) and whose computer expertise has been such a help for us. His willingness to do this will free up the new Secretary/Treasurer from the duties of website management and

---

<sup>1</sup> Following the meeting (7/20/20) and motion to proceed, Mary Jepsen contacted the Secretary of State and has been made aware of the steps necessary to “cease business activity in the State of Washington.” This may take some time, but following the guidance of the State will ensure that we are following proper procedures.

perhaps encourage someone new who might be intimidated by those tasks. Thank you Mike!

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Pam Searcy, owner of Artebella Gallery on Spruce Street in Downtown Yakima will reopen her gallery in August. She has a space available for rent, very reasonably priced, where an artist can work, hold classes, and/or display his/her art. If you, or anyone you know, would be interested in rental of this space, please call Pamela Searcy at (206) 915-4663..

2. Regrettably, the State Fair has been cancelled for this year, but barring any unforeseen restrictions on such gatherings and thinking positive thoughts, we're going to have our own

### ART IN THE PARK

Third week in September

So. . . start painting, carving, potting. . . whatever! Linda and Larry Kirkpatrick will provide space on their property for each participant to display their work. Plenty of room to spread out in a beautiful and comfortable setting! More to come about this at the August meeting, but begin preparing now! For more information you can call Linda at (509) 961-3131.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7 p.m. Our next meeting will be held on August 17, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Maiocco  
Recording Secretary