Brooks Memorial Library — Fine Arts Committee Meeting
June 6, 2017, 9:00 a.m.

Present: Judith Bellamy, Connie Bresnahan, Howard Burrows, Christine deVallet, Hollin Pagos, Alex Stinson.
Staff: Starr LaTronica. Absent: Prudence Baird, Scott Castle, Elizabeth McCollum.

Call to order: Howard called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

Public comment: None

Minutes of April 6 and May 4: Both sets of minutes were unanimously approved.

Old Business

FA Collection Inventory: New library volunteer and FA committee member Hollin Pagos, MLS, was introduced. Among her experience is art cataloging and researching, and she will work with Christine several hours a week on revising and updating the collection’s records. Christine’s goal is to develop clear, methodical, written procedures for cataloging that anyone can follow in the future. It is important that any new coding system and data be designed to migrate with any update in the library’s overall catalog. She estimates this will take a year, at least. Work will be relatively slow during the summer as she is away much of the time. Hollin will become familiar with the collection and existing catalog and begin research.

Terry Sylvester mural: Terry had offered to sell the mural to the library;* Christine thinks we should not pay a lot for it, as it is made with materials that are not designed to last and would require spending money to preserve it as much as possible. She could find someone who knows how to deal with such ephemera. We also need to know from Terry if she wants it back or, if she wants to sell it, for how much. Christine is waiting for Terry to contact her. Howard thought we should promote the mural with press releases and/or events. Christine suggested gaining more clarity before further planning.

Anna Dewdney event: Connie said she will meet tomorrow with children’s librarians Lindsay and Paige to hear their ideas about an event, and will report at the next FA meeting.

Exhibits: The *Children’s Illustrators* exhibit for June/July is “Ralph Flies the Coop,” by writer Jamie Scanlon and artist Ellen Tumavicus, both of Brattleboro. Greenfield, MA, author/illustrator Astrid Sheckels’s “Hector Fox and the Giant Quest” will be on display in August/September.

Display cases: Locks: The keys are very difficult or impossible to use in the existing locks. At the May meeting, Prudence volunteered to price new locks for all display cabinets. She had reported by email a cost of $145.88 for seven locks with two keys each, all keyed alike. After discussion, it was decided that Starr will order new locks as quoted, and that all keys will be kept in the key box in the staff room behind the main circulation desk.

*Plexiglas for Children’s Illustrators cases:* Judith reported an estimate from Clear Solutions (Hinsdale) of $44.60 per panel to cut Plexiglas to the specified size and bevel the edges. To replace the glass in two cases in order to fix them lower on the wall for children to see easily would cost $178.40, plus whatever it would cost for installation, which Clear Solutions doesn’t do.

New Business

Starr reported that the library is now a *Foundation Center Network Partner*, permitting us enhanced access to funders. A training session for town nonprofits on researching funding sources will take place Monday, June 12, and another training in the fall will cover grant writing.

Starr asked Howard to take charge of the *Snow Angel relocation*, including having
- the marble base cleaned and adhesive removed,
- the sculpture secured to the base, and
- plaster and paint cleaned off the plaque; and, in addition,
- contacting John Carnahan about having GPI Construction move the sculpture/base and plaque to the mezzanine elevator lobby and installed there, for which the Historical Society will pay.

The *Three Schoolgirls* now in that location will be moved to the first-floor front window.

Recommendations for *local art conservationists and art installers* will be sought. Judith suggested as a resource the Williamstown Art Conservation Center on the Clark Institute campus.

NEXT MEETING: *No next meeting was set or discussed.* Howard will circulate a Doodle online scheduling poll to determine whether absent members can attend a regular meeting time of the first Thursday each month at 9 a.m.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

* from FA notes of 12/12/05: “Terry is asking about $4,000, plus about $1,000 for lucite for wall installation (may also need press mounting).
Suggestion: library could display murals once a year but not own them; stage “Brattleboro Days” or “Harvest Days” on anniversary of library’s opening with Terry’s murals the centerpiece.”

Notes by Judith Bellamy