



**Annual General Meeting / Pontiac Artists' Association**  
**Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017, 2:00 pm**  
**Stone School, Portage-du-Fort, QC**

**MINUTES**

Present: France Lamarche (President); Louise Guay (Vice-president); Christopher Seifried (Treasurer); Nicole Lavigne (Secretary); Marcel Renaud (Director); Kate Aley; Katherine Telfer; Ruby Ewen; Michèle Gagnon; Gabrielle Dupuis; Dale Shutt; Valerie Bridgeman; Fred Ryan; Sean Kerr; Élane Gaudet; Sher Brisebois; Donna Andrew; Anne Brûlé.

**1. Opening of meeting and welcome by the President**

Opening and welcome by President. It is a first meeting held on a weekend and participants are invited to provide feedback for future scheduling. France Lamarche takes this opportunity to inform members of a new partnership with the store *Omer Desseres Inc.* which allows for a 10% reduction on presentation of the PAA membership card.

France also informs members that, after seven years on the Board and six of which as president, she will not accept renewal of her mandate as member of the Board. She takes the opportunity to thank Board members with whom she has worked over the years as well as Gabrielle Dupuis for her precious collaboration in financial matters. Current Board members thank her for her valuable contribution and present her with a small memento of their gratitude. All members join in thanking her for her contribution to the PAA.

**2. Approval of the agenda**

Reading of proposed agenda.

Acceptance moved by Dale Shutt, seconded by Gabrielle Dupuis. All in favour. Carried

**3. Adoption of minutes of Annual General Meeting of November 30<sup>th</sup> 2016**

Members are invited to review the Minutes of the meeting. Christopher Seifried moved to accept the minutes with a proposed change to the wording in the last paragraph of item 5 (Financial report). Dale Shutt seconded this proposal. All in favour. Carried.

**4. Annual Reports of PAA committees:**

- a. **President (France Lamarche);**
- b. **Stone School Gallery (Dale Shutt);**
- c. **Pontiac Artists' Studio Tour (Valerie Bridgeman);**
- d. **Pontiac School of the Arts (France Lamarche);**
- e. **Artists' Residency Project (Valerie Bridgeman).**

Annual reports were presented by representatives of the committees. Sean Kerr moved to accept the reports, seconded by Valerie Bridgeman. All in favour. Carried.

## 5. Financial report

Christopher Seifried presented the financial report prepared by Peter Smith, the Association's accountant. He reviewed the various statements including the Receipts and Disbursements, the Financial Position and the Changes in Net Assets, and answered questions from members. Christopher concluded by stressing the excellent work done by Gabrielle Dupuis, a very competent and devoted volunteer in bookkeeping without whom the work could not be done. On behalf of the Board and all PAA members, he thanked her for the many years she has helped us with our financial operations.

Christopher Seifried moved that the membership accept the financial report as presented, seconded by Éline Gaudet. All in favour. Carried.

## 6. Budget for 2017-2018

The proposed budget for 2017-2018 was presented by Christopher Seifried. He reviewed the main changes between the amounts budgeted for the last year ending August 31, 2017, the actual amounts received or spent, and finally the budget estimate for the current year which goes until August 31, 2018. He noted two items that account for some of the changes. First, the expected costs associated to the rent and electricity as the Association is currently negotiating with the MRC Pontiac, new owner of the Stone School in Portage-du-Fort. The other item that will require additional funding is the transition of the Web site to a new platform that will allow easier and more efficient management of the information.

Christopher Seifried moved that the membership accept the budget for 2017-2018 as presented, seconded by Dale Shutt. All in favour. Carried.

In the question period that followed, Christopher provided information on the budget relating to the event '*Celebrating our Volunteers*' that was held on September 23<sup>rd</sup> 2017. Revenues coming from a fundraising activity last spring as well as numerous generous donations brought in over \$ 6,653 while the expenses were \$4,234, which left a net amount of \$2,418 for future activities of the Association. It is important to note that, in addition, important contributions in goods and services by different sponsors, including *The Pontiac Journal*, *The Equity*, as well as the *Dépanneur Thompson*, were crucial to the success of the event.

## 7. Naming of Auditor for 2017-2018

It was moved by Dale Shutt, seconded by Katherine Telfer, that no auditor be appointed for fiscal year 2017-2018. All in favour. Carried.

## 8. Break / Volunteer sign up

#### **9. Naming of a president and secretary of election**

Dale Shutt was named president of the election and Valerie Bridgeman, secretary. Dale reviewed the process for the election of Board members and provided brief descriptions of the different roles. The following accepted their nominations: Sean Kerr, Nicole Lavigne, Christopher Seifried, Marcel Renaud and Louise Guay.

#### **10. Election of Board of Directors**

The following members were elected: Louise Guay, Christopher Seifried, Nicole Lavigne, Marcel Renaud and Sean Kerr.

#### **11. Pontiac and Ottawa Valley Writers' Circle (POVWC)**

Sean Kerr presented the *Pontiac and Ottawa Valley Writers' Circle* (POVWC) and its link with the PAA. It started in January 2017 as a pilot project under the PAA where writers of fiction of the Pontiac and Ottawa Valley were invited to get together to discuss writing, the industry and to share one another's work. The goal is to foster the development of a strong fiction writing community in the area as well as provide opportunities for writers to develop their skills and enjoy networking among peers. There are now 10 regular members with 5 more expected to join. The group receives great support from the Pontiac Journal and The Equity and have created opportunities for sharing activities with other PAA members with public reading sessions. The POVWC members represent a dynamic group interested in contributing to the future of the PAA.

#### **12. Question period**

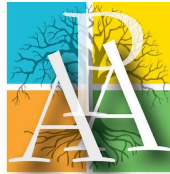
Valerie Bridgeman briefly presented the concept of the fundraising project 'Works on Paper' which she has coordinated with great success over the last few years. She would like to expand participation in the coming years and invited members to join in and to pass on the invitation to a broader circle of potential participants.

Louise Guay reminded members of the due dates for the current call for artists for the upcoming season at the Gallery and for a new travelling exhibit on the theme '*Metamorphosis*'.

It was confirmed that the 2018 Pontiac Artists Studio Tours will include 12 artists in 10 different studios.

Élaine Gaudet was sorry to note that the material developed for the 'Celebrating our Volunteers' event was not available on the PAA web site any more. Louise Guay confirmed that it will be back on the site in a few months once the transition to the new platform is completed.

Elaine Gaudet raised the possibility of offering PAA members a discount for registering in courses offered by the PAA. The suggestion will be referred to the Pontiac School of the Arts Committee for discussion.



A question was raised as why the popular 'Get Art!' project was no longer part of the PAA service offer. Kate Aley reminded people that it initially started under the PAA but that, as the formula evolved, it appeared easier to manage activities separately, although its members continue to support the PAA.

Given the costs of electricity for heating the School in the winter, Dale Shutt raised the possibility of restricting the use of the building to the kitchen during the winter months. If it is possible to control the heat in that area, it would allow a number of activities to proceed all-year long.

### **13. Close of meeting**

Close of meeting was proposed by Valerie Bridgeman, seconded by Michèle Gagnon. All in favour. Carried. The meeting was closed at 4:00 pm.