

# **Minutes of the 1/22/22 Annual Members Meeting**

Wallkill River School, Inc.  
232 Ward Street  
Montgomery, NY 12549

**Call Meeting to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 3:00 by Penny Thelman, Chair.

**Quorum:** With 163 members the number needed for a quorum is 25. Quorum is confirmed with 43 members attending at start (an additional 13 members joined the meeting later).

**Introduction of Board Members:** Penny Thelman, Chairperson; Maureen Crush, Vice-President; Gloria Bonelli, Secretary; Mitchell Saler, Treasurer; Maaike Wiegman-Leavey, Assistant Secretary; Shane Daley and Conor Eckert, Members. Penny noted with deep regret that our President Chuck Tudor recently resigned. Chuck has been a strong and active member of the Board and School; unstinting in his time and willingness to volunteer he will be missed. He has said he will be here and will continue his support for activities.

**Introduction of Staff:** Sarah Fortner Pierson, Executive Director and Nick Riker, Executive Assistant

**Welcome Members** – Penny welcomed everyone. She requested that anyone who has not returned their ballot to please get them in so that their vote can be counted. It was noted that the meeting is being held electronically on-line with Nick Riker operating the online connection from the school. Gloria Bonelli the Board Secretary will be monitoring the Chat Box. Gloria briefly went over how to use the Chat box for communicating.

**Notice of Meeting** – Conor Eckert made a motion to waive the reading of the notice and Maaike Wiegman-Leavey seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Minutes from the 2019 Meeting:** Penny called for any corrections to the Minutes. There were none. Gloria Bonelli made a motion to accept the minutes and Maureen Crush seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Highlights from Annual Reports:** Penny noted the Annual Report to Members will be presented on the screen and that it will also be posted on the School's website. It can be downloaded if anyone wishes to have a copy.

- **Chairperson Report:** Penny Thelman
- **President's Remarks:** Sarah read the President's remarks.
- **Executive Director Report:** Sarah Fortner-Pierson
- **Treasurer Report:** Sarah reviewed the Report
- **Insurance Committee Report:** Penny Thelman
- **Curating Committee Report:** Gloria Bonelli
- **Gallery Report:** Sarah Fortner-Pierson
- **Hudson Valley Plein Air Festival Report:** Maaike Wiegman-Leavey
- **School Report:** Sarah Fortner-Pierson
- **Advertising and Marketing Report:** Shane Daley
- **Volunteers Committee Report:** Gloria Bonelli
- **Capital Campaign:** Maureen Crush
- **Teacher's Report:** Penny read Chuck Tudor's report

**Motion made to Approve the Budget and accept the Reports** made by Penny Thelman, seconded by Maaike Wiegman-Leavey. All present were in favor and Motion passed.

**Election:**

- **Appointment of Inspectors of Election:** Upon motion made by Vickey O'Neil and seconded by Shane Daley the appointment of Sarah Pierson and Nick Riker as Inspectors was unanimously ratified by all members present.
- **Introduction of Candidates:**
  - Gloria Bonelli
  - Conor Eckert
  - Louise Pedrick
- **Call for Nominations from the floor:** None
- **Candidate Statements:** None
- **Call for any remaining proxies not already turned in**
- **Call for Ballots to be cast**
- **Report on Election Results:**
  - Gloria Bonelli - 53 with 2 abstentions
  - Conor Eckert – 52 with 3 abstentions
  - Louise Pedrick – 42 with 13 abstentions
  - Proposition 1 – Change of Name to Wallkill River Center for the Arts. Passed with 50 in favor, 4 opposed and 1 abstention.
  - Proposition 2 – Granting lifetime membership to the founders of the organization: Shawn Dell Joyce, Gene Bove' and Steve Blumenthal. Passed with 55 votes in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.

**Appreciation and Awards:** Special thanks were announced by Penny Thelman and Sarah Fortner Pierson for the School's Sponsors, Donors, Volunteers, Board and Committee members, Staff and all of the Wallkill River School Members and supporters.

**OLD BUSINESS:** There were no items listed from last year's meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- The Gallery Calendar and Artist Exhibiting List and Guide were reviewed and discussed.
- Lisa DeLuise asked about lighting upgrades. The Board responded that it is being considered and the cost found so far is \$70 per light.
- Mark Rosengarten asked about a hanging system for small frames for Member Shows. He noted the hallway system that Sarah put in the hallway show is great. Also noted that art works should not have long wires for hanging that 2-3 inches is best.
- Member Renelle had several comments and questions. There was discussion regarding whether the hanging fees (which are 2 pieces included in membership and third piece is \$20.00) are excessive. Also if the number of works could be increased in the juried shows and if members should not be rejected. It was noted that in comparable galleries the hanging fee is \$100. It was noted by Penny Thelman that historically the school charged individual artists \$600 for each Gallery show and all costs were born by the solo artist. Information on the number of member paintings that were sold was provided. Part of the discussion was whether the juror should be allowed to have a gallery show or should just be paid a fee instead. The juried shows have expanded the School's reputation and it is becoming known

for more than just plein air works. It was noted that outside jurors promote the show and bring in their groups which provides an opportunity for increased membership.

- It was requested if the number of pick-ups for exhibited art could be reduced.
- Discussion on writing workshops and performing arts being incorporated into program. The Executive Director responded that these events could be held in the evenings when the building is not already reserved.
- Renelle noted that other galleries have 600 pieces in their member shows and requested more small works shows. The Board responded that gallery shows are done to showcase the art pieces and as a practical matter there is not enough room to have hundreds of pieces and still have room for viewing the works. The Board determined they would discuss at a Board meeting.
- Many Members thanked the Board and Staff for their hard work.

**Appreciation:** The Board thanked the School's supporters, volunteers, the HVPAF workers, Sponsors, donors, Staff, Board and MEMBERS.

**Adjournment:** Maureen Crush made a motion to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded by Renelle. All were in favor. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 4:40pm.

Respectfully submitted by Penny Thelman