

**WESTON ART & INNOVATION CENTER
ADVISORY BOARD (Weston AIC-AB)
For the meeting held on
Monday, November 16th – 3:30 PM
Zoom Meeting**

Meeting called to order at 3:30 pm. Minutes taken by Joel Angiolillo. Members in attendance:

Present		
P	Cecily Cassum	AIC Board, Chair
P	Joel Angiolillo	AIC Board, Clerk, Treasurer
P	Audrey Pepper	AIC Board
P	John Thompson	AIC Board
P	Lee McCanne	AIC Board
P	Jenn Warner	Weston Public Library
P	Alli Palmgren	Weston Public Library
P	Susan Brennan	Member of the Public
	Nathan Suher	Weston Media Center ED
P	Jean Arturi	AIC Manager
	Debbi Darling	Friends of Weston Public Library

Minutes of the 10/19/20 meeting were approved unanimously by roll call.

Book Sale

The WPL book sale was held in the AIC over the past weekend, 11/12 to 11/15. Books were moved from basement of library to the AIC. Various Covid precautions were enforced: Contact tracing, hand sanitizer, 10 people max. There were 144 reservations plus a few more walk-ins. \$3300 made. AIC and WPL tote bags were made and sold as well. There are plans to have regular, on-going book sales in the AIC.

Cecily discussed an art auction by a non-profit in Marion MA that raised \$15K as a possible future activity.

Signage

There is a committee in town working on standard signage in Weston, but there are still no published guidelines. We would like to get some type of sign in front of the building soon.

Reorganization

Joel wondered if the AIC Advisory Board should be somehow folded into the WPL Board of Library Trustees, perhaps adding a few more trustees at the same time. The Advisory Board would no longer operate as an independent board. A lot of discussion was generated, mostly concerning the disadvantages of merging the two boards. Most of the objections centered around the concern that the AIC would not be given the attention (e.g., programming, fundraising) that it would need.

Susan raised the point that increasing the number of trustees would require a vote of Town Meeting. John felt that one of the primary roles of the AIC AB was fundraising. Several attendees felt that the AIC AB would be more in touch with the AIC programming needs and challenges.

Programming

Jean reported out on the progress in holding classes. Some are well attended, others not. We are still learning which ones do better and how to market classes. Her general sense is that it is hard to hold online classes and classes with restricted signups. The board discussed various ideas for classes. Marketing continues to be an issue. A town resident has volunteers to help with marketing. A small sub-committee will be formed to help with marketing.

Funding

Rentals were intended to be a major source of income for the AIC. Since March we have not been able to rent rooms. This has resulted in a significant budget shortfall. Currently the AIC's major source of income is the rental from the Weston Media Center.

Mural

Joel reported that the plan to paint murals on the Mass Rail Trail underpasses is still progressing slowly. The program will be co-sponsored by the AIC.

AIC Bookshelf

Joel raised the topic of whether or not the AIC should accept donations of "how-to" art books for our bookshelves. Audrey felt that at least some art books are good for inspiring the maker. John wondered if donated art books could be marked for sale. This may be feasible once the building opens to more people. There was a general concern that we might be overwhelmed by art books. It was decided that the best approach was to accept books through the normal channels, namely to the Friends of WPL. The Friends with the support of the AIC could select the best for keeping in the AIC.

Next Meeting

No date or time was set.