

SHIRE OF NORTHAM

Minutes of the Shire of Northam Art Collection Committee Meeting held Thursday, 31st May 2012 at 4:00 pm

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1. OPENING AND WELCOME

The Meeting was declared open at 4:00pm.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Parts of Division 6 Subdivision 1 of the Local Government Act 1995 requires Council members and employees to disclose any direct or indirect financial interest or general interest in any matter listed in this agenda.

The Act also requires the nature of the interest to be disclosed in writing before the meeting or immediately before the matter being discussed.

NB A Committee member who makes a disclosure must not preside or participate in, or be present during, any discussion or decision making procedure relating to the disclosed matter unless the procedures set out in Sections 5.68 or 5.69 of the Act have been complied with.

3. ATTENDANCE

Chairman	Mr TM (Michael) Letch
Councillor	Cr Ulo Rumjantsev
AVAS	Ms Carol-Anne Wescombe
Northam Chamber of Commerce	Ms Pat French
Community Representative	Ms Ann Ashman
Shire of Northam	Ms Denise Gobbart
	Ms Victoria Jones

4. APOLOGIES

Cr Denis Beresford

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Moved: Ms Ann Ashman

Seconded: Ms Pat French

That the Minutes of the Shire of Northam Art Collection Committee Meeting held on Thursday 31 May 2012, be confirmed as a true and accurate record of that Meeting.

Carried 7/0

Ms Wescombe attended at 4:03pm

6 AGENDA ITEMS

6.1 DISPLAY OF ARTWORK

Requests from Northam RSL & Northam Historical Society regarding the display of the portraits of Hugo Throssell & James Mitchell.

Portrait of Hugo Throssell is too large and heavy. A one condition of loan may be that the portrait hang in its original spot at Northam Town Hall, so as to ensure the security and structural support of the piece.

Portrait of James Mitchell, however, is much smaller and more easily transportable. Ms Wescombe suggested that it may have to be supported rather than hung for safety reasons, and suggested the possibility of a Perspex casing to protect it.

Mr Letch suggested that the portrait may be appropriate for display with the Historical Society, for security reasons, and in keeping with the historical value of the piece.

6.2 MOSAIC SOFTWARE

Ms Ashman suggested that enough people have gone through the training to be able to run it adequately already. Consider having a separate account for the art collection, so that the system is not overloaded with information from the Historical Society or Morby Cottage etc. As with the Historical Society, the idea was also raised for the Art Collection Committee to have their own laptop, so as to make the process easier and more readily accessible.

Excluding the training, Ms French indicated that the estimate for the cost of the program alone would be around \$1,210.00, with Cr Rumjantsev suggesting that we may be able to find it for as little as \$600.00.

7. OTHER BUSINESS OF AN URGENT NATURE INTRODUCED BY DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE

7.1 ART RECORDS

Cr Rumjantsev informed the committee that the entire collection has been photographed, with the exception of the watercolours, as they need to be de-framed in order to be photographed, due to an unavoidable problem with reflections and glare on the glass. He also stated the importance of documenting pieces in this way, as better defined photographs allow for zooming and reduction to scan for faults or specific details. Stock photographs are primarily to be used to aid in mass theft cases.

It has been previously discussed that the paintings be covered with acid-free paper, it may be prudent to do this when the pictures are de-framed and photographed, in order to save de-framing them twice.

Mr Letch indicated that 2 or 3 pieces need rewrapping or may have frame damage which will need to be addressed. The pieces should be fine where they are until summer at least, but it might be a good idea to recommend to Council that all old watercolours be put with acid-free paper, and a number of the oil works be reframed, and/or encased in Perspex. In addition to this, we will need to take full stock of all works at remote sites, such as the visitor centre, Killara, and library, along with any damage that needs urgent attention. It was also stated that estimates for these costs should be obtained, and this should be done so that we can address how many works are in need of attention.

7.2 ARTWORK POLICY

Local Authority policies should be collated and made into an appropriate format to present to Council. The collection is insured wherever it is, so the only issue is the policy on lending it out.

Ms French put forward that we work with local galleries to find a method that best suits us.

Mr Letch & Cr Rumjantsev discussed the need for provenance cards for each piece, and the fact that these will need to be adequately sized, perhaps on an A4 sheet, and then either heat sealed or encased in a Perspex casing, as some with engraved blocks have caused difficulty.

Mr Letch to obtain quotes and information regarding the best way to approach the issue for the next meeting.

It was suggested by staff that information gathered from Local Authorities regarding the storage and transport of artwork be collated and made into a suitable format to present to Council.

7.3 PHILIPPA NIKULINSKY BOOK

Ms Ashman advised that the book of botanical paintings is currently held at the Shire Administration Office, and it's display should be discussed

7.6 ROGUES GALLERY

Mr Letch raised the suggestion of collating all of the historical information from the placards onto one modernised board, although Ms Gobbart advised that we have more pressing matters to attend to before this will be considered by Council.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Meeting of the Shire of Northam Art Collection Committee is to be held on Thursday, 19 July 2012, at 4:00pm in the Committee Meeting Room, Shire of Northam Administration Office.

9. DECLARATION OF CLOSURE

There being no further business the Presiding Officer declared the Meeting closed at 4.54pm.

<p>“I certify that the Minutes of the Shire of Northam Art Collection Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 31 May 2012, have been confirmed as a true and correct record.”</p>	
_____	Chairman
_____	Date