

September 10, 2024

FCA Toronto 2024 AGM on Zoom

MINUTES

Rick Cullis called the zoom meeting to order at 7:05pm

In attendance: 24 Members including the executive board:

Rick Cullis, Acting President
Louise Scott-Bushell, Exhibitions
Karen Saunders-Hurley, Treasurer
Robert Pointer, Website Coordinator
Dina Belaia, Graphic Designer
Martha Moore, Secretary
Lucy Quin, Social Media Coordinator
Alan Douglas Ray, Past President

Bev Morgan, Ad Hoc Member and Zoom facilitator

Rick welcomed everyone

Rick asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the 2023 AGM that were sent out in the last Mailchimp. Lorraine Roberts motioned to accept the minutes, Nancy Newman seconded, all in favour, Motion Carried.

Rick asked for a motion to accept the Agenda also sent out on Mailchimp. Martha Moore moved to accept the Agenda, Seconded by Alan Douglas Ray, all in favour. Motion Carried.

Rick said that at the moment some of us weren't sure we were going to be here. Those who were on the executive previously saw all that Alan put in to get the chapter up and going and it was nothing less than heroic, the hours, hours and hours it took to get it going. With the decision to collapse the registered not for profit company they were concerned ...and we are thrilled to say, it's gone really really well.

Rick asked each of the board members to introduce themselves and describe what they do for the board.

Board Reports:

Martha Moore, Secretary

Martha reported that she handles correspondence for the chapter as well minutes for the general, executive and AGM minutes and thanked Bev for recording the AGM today so she can ensure the minutes are accurate. The AGM minutes will be posted on the website soon.

Karen Saunders Hurley, Treasurer

Karen as treasurer keeps good accounting of all of the deposits and disbursements for the organization.

Louise Scott-Bushell, Exhibition Coordinator

Louise looks for places to have shows and once she gets accepted by an organization she follows up with FCA Vancouver in getting submissions set up for a show and organizes everything involved including the results after. Louise would appreciate help looking for venues.

Robert Pointer, Website Coordinator

Robert maintains what Alan has started and has updated and edited the website and fortunately the system wasn't too far removed from what he knew before. Robert will update the website in future.

Dina Belaia, Graphic Designer

Dina is a graphic designer who puts together our key posters, people will see they are not just announcements but they are Art Announcements.

Bev Morgan, Ad Hoc member

Bev looks after arranging Zoom meetings and the distribution of the MailChimp communication to members. Rick thanked Bev for her help.

Lucy Quin, Social Media Coordinator

Lucy has been with the chapter a long time and was delayed arriving at the zoom so Rick mentioned that Lucy handles all social media updates and gets everything posted as needed.

Rick asked for a motion to accept the new executive team.

Nancy Newman moved, Lorraine Roberts seconded, all in favour. Motion Carried.

Liability Insurance:

Martha reported that considering we live in a world of lawsuits the board felt liability insurance was necessary. Martha arranged 1ml liability insurance with BFL, a Directors and Officers (D&O) policy and it will be effective September 11, 2024 for a year for just over \$1000. The expense of setting up the insurance has come out of our balance and Karen has sent an e-transfer of \$324 to BFL as brokerage fee, the first instalment of \$175.50 to First Insurance, the finance company and there will be 9 subsequent instalments of \$64.13...which Karen will be talking about next.

The insurance protects the board from liability and there was no need to get insurance for the art or venues, all our exhibition sites have their own insurance. If you're interested in joining the board you would be covered for liability.

Treasurers Report:

Karen presented a broad overview of our status and said that we had \$909 come over from the collapse of the registered company to the new chapter then with the insurance that has come out we were left with \$315 but what's coming in from FCA national for show submissions and a couple of new memberships is \$1100 leaving us with \$1433.59 by the end of the week. Included in the \$1433.59 is the \$100 deposit disbursement to Neilson Park to secure our dates in the fall.

Rick mentioned that we had considered upgraded our mailchimp account to a paid program but felt we'd hold off until we had more money in the bank. We are being very careful with the money we have.

Exhibitions:

Earls Court. Louise said that everyone should have received their notices today whether they got into the show or not. We have 51 paintings in the show, there were 20 rejections however 9 were at the acceptable level but because the artist already had two paintings in the show, which was the limit, their third wasn't accepted. The prizes for this year show will be \$300, \$200 and \$100 and Martha has been approaching art companies and has got Gift Certificates (GC) for three honourable mentions.

Speaking of donations. If anyone knows of framers, art companies or manufacturers who would be willing to support us with GC or materials we will advertise them with our shows.

Earls Court will handle intake, hanging will be October 3 and if you could volunteer, they would appreciate volunteers but no more than four people. Louise is unable to attend the take in or hanging at Earls Court but please let her know if you can help with hanging and she will pass on your name to Earls Court. Thank you. Don't miss the opening October 10th!

Plans for 2025:

Louise was concerned that we wouldn't find a place for the new year and approached the Neilson Creative Centre who gave us three weeks in the fall, September 22- October 12, 2025 and they have been very gracious working with us. They wanted half the fee up front, Louise told them we had no money and they allowed us to put a \$100 deposit down to hold our spot. We will then pay the remainder in two instalments January and June. Sunnybrook Hospital is another option and Louise hopes to talk to Jenny to make arrangements. Pazan is another possibility for 2025 and Louise would like to see them do more advertising to promote our show, it's a nice gallery and their prices aren't too bad. And an online show is being considered. We'd like to know from our members what they would like to do as far as shows.

Louise asked if anyone had connections with a gallery or know of places we could display our paintings please contact her. Through Clarence we made the connection to Earls Court and we appreciate those connections. Lynden Cowan asked if we'd approached Alton Mills, they get a lot of traffic up there. Lorraine Roberts mentioned she's a member of Headwaters Arts and they will rent to members, it's a nice gallery on the main floor and people stay at the Millcroft Inn...last weekend there were visitors from Sudbury and Houston, and they come in from every where. It would be an excellent option. Lorraine will send Louise the information. The Headwaters gallery is located in the AltonMill Arts Centre, Alton, Caledon.

Jenny was on the zoom and confirmed that we can display our paintings at Sunnybrook Hospital, when it doesn't conflict with our other shows, and she will contact Louise to make arrangements.

In 2025 FCA Toronto will have an exhibition at Neilson Park Creative Centre and Sunnybrook Hospital and Louise is looking into an online show as well.

Website:

Robert mentioned he has been updating the information on the site and the push now is to get all the member pages updated with a head shot, one significant piece of artwork and their contact information because that is their representation on the website. Martha has a list of the artists missing their details and will be contacting them.

Future Plans and How you can help:

Martha Moore presented Yay Us:

“ I’m going to reiterate what Rick has saidand that is that we are:

A Fully functioning executive board and we have a lot of key areas covered.

The roles of PRESIDENT - TREASURER - EXHIBITION COORDINATOR - WEBMASTER - GRAPHIC DESIGNER and SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR all are covered by great people with skills perfectly suited to their role on the Executive ...and even **through** the transition from an incorporated entity to a Chapter of the FCA we have shared responsibilities and got it all done, thanks to our **present** President Rick and **former** President Alan, who’s been a big help with the transition. Thank you!!

Moving forward, let’s talk about what we have arranged for you so far and the three areas where we need some help.

Firstly, Art Chat programs are popular and an important part of our meetings, and we know they need to be both educating and entertaining and we have the spring of 2025 coveredbut we need a **Program Coordinator** to keep it going so we have an Art Chat of sorts at every/or most of the meetings and there are plenty of options out there that can be arranged on Zoom.

So far, we have 5 Art Chats arranged in the new Year...Starting in January we have a demo with working artist Andrea Warren from Golden Artists Colours who will cover the latest in Golden Acrylics, Williamsburg Oils and Qor watercolours, and continuing on into the Spring we have the following... a Painting critique with an SFCA from BC...a demo with Brian Buckrell...an Author and Artist will talk about a book she wrote specifically for artists that we can all relate to...she’s a dynamic, inspiring speaker and our 5th program in the Spring will be with a pair of artists who will talk about Teaching Art, the how to’s and the many benefits. So programs in the Spring are covered.

If you have an hour or two a month to help with programming we’d really appreciate hearing from you. You’d arrange the programs each month and attend and/or send in a report to our board meetings to fill us in on the details. We need programs after those mentioned...

The Program Coordinator is the first of **3 vacancies** we have on the board and we would appreciate a few hours of your time to fill them.

By the way, we have brief and to the point **board meetings** once a month. They are detailed, agendas go out and after each key area there is an action for each member to complete and report on at the next meeting. Everyone goes away with a task that is a small part of the big picture to help keep the wheels turning and moving forward. We’ve grown our membership and as you’ve heard we have great things planned for the new year, exhibitions and programs.

Additionally to the Program Coordinator we need a **Vice President** who with help with communications, delegate responsibilities and step in if the President isn't available ...really a VP is backup where needed. Our VP would be the Ambassador for the chapter and once new members are registered at FCA head office would welcome them to the chapter. Those new recruits are invaluable, they bring energy and experience and hopefully will also lend a hand. If you know of someone who would be interested in joining our chapter please send them our way. Thank you.

And **thirdly**, we need help rallying financial support, gift certificates for prizes, sponsorships and corporate support, etc. A **Fundraising Coordinator**, and a few **demi-fundraisers**...would really help. If you have connections, names and businesses that you feel are a fit please think about who you know and the companies you do business with, they're a great place to start. And it doesn't have to be in a big way, however if you're comfortable approaching a corporation we have a three-tier donation plan in place, Alan set it up, it has been simplified and includes excellent graphics by Dina. You could ask for a little or a lot, accompanied by personalized letters so you'd have back up and everything you need to make the case for us with the company or individual.

Specifically, they could sponsor an exhibition, cover the cost of the venue, GC, prizes, etc. or a promotional booklet we'd distribute at our shows. With our show results FCA Toronto provide a brochure format for the accepted paintings for us to reproduce. You could approach an organization with that format and ask them to cover the cost of the brochure in exchange for mentions on the brochure, our posters, social media, live and online exhibitions. If we have the budget we, in cooperation with galleries, can advertise our shows...drawing in more collectors to see our work and help build our profile. Any amount would be a help and it all adds up and a few thousand can go a long way toward helping Louise secure great venues for our future exhibitions and in turn, for artists, better prize money.

And if you have gallery connections or know of other venues that may be interested in a show with us, please let Louise know. She's built rapport with all our galleries, knows how to close deals and ideas out of the box are okay too. As long as we have volunteers who give us a few hours here and there we will continue to thrive.

As you can see we have a lot of checkmarks in place. We currently have **99** members, a strong executive board lead by Rick and liability insurance in place that covers issues that may arise, a small but growing bank account, thanks to Karen for administrating that, exhibitions lined up, live and online, thanks to Louise, as well as Dina and Lucy's support getting the word out and with Robert's help we have completely updated the website with the exception of a few head shots and images needed for the artists profiles.

If yours is vacant on the website, please take a minute to send a properly cropped head shot and an image of your work of art to be included ... thanks!

We are now a fully operational FCA chapter and FCA national have also gone through a transition, new people and new ideas and we're looking forward to more involvement with them in future.

Lastly, with all the above, **Membership Renewal** notices will be coming out soon from national, please consider renewing and supporting our growth in future...we're going to do our best to keep you engaged and exhibiting your beautiful work.

So, two questions...Would you join again and would you like to be in the executive? "

We are a creative bunch. If you have any suggestions, ideas or questions please send a note to any on the executive, your input is appreciated. Thank you!

Questions and general discussion:

Alan had a question about fundraising etc., and months ago we talked about fundraising amongst our members, baseball caps, Tshirts and aprons. Alan felt the best way to generate publicity is within the existing membership, an artist wearing a baseball cap or lapel pin or colourful apron would be asked about it and open up a dialogue. Sheila Davis also suggested lapel pins. Rick agreed it was a good idea, at the time it had been set aside, however, the executive will look into options in the future.

Martha said they had looked into quality aprons and Dina into Tshirts. Aprons with colourful logos were \$35 a piece and we weren't sure we could make much profit...but we will follow up on lapel pins as well.

Regarding exhibition venues, Rick mentioned that the gallery in Midland the Quest was a consideration, however, things have changed there and Louise felt that Alton Mill was a better option because of the location and traffic. Neilson is a very nice space, they accept paintings, will store them, hang and take down our show and return paintings...however, they are not a walk by location.

Louise mentioned the competition for galleries is getting bigger and bigger and there are more galleries closing. She was at the The Old Town Hall gallery with the ECOAA, a beautiful light-filled space. They had 51 paintings hung and many big ones and there is a possibility for a show there in 2026.

Alan asked if we had decided on the renewal fee for 2025, and it was yet to be decided. \$40 is the current renewal fee and the board will address it and advise FCA national in time for when you renew with national and our chapter.

Lastly, Rick mentioned that the Bylaws and Policies are revised but essentially the same as the registered bylaws and policies except simplified and they are similar to the Edmonton chapters bylaws and policies. They are available on the website.

Rick asked for a motion to accept the Bylaws and Policies. Lynden Cowan made a motion to accept the Bylaws and Policies, seconded by Cathy Cullis, all in favour, Motion Carried.

Rick closed the meeting by thanking everyone for attending the zoom and mentioned that the minutes will go out to all of the membership to assure them that we are alive and have survived the transition!

Meeting adjourned @ 7:25pm

Minutes submitted by,
Martha Moore
Secretary
FCA Toronto

September 13, 2024

