



Sun City Photography Club Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes July 10, 2023

Call to order: 12:30 PM

Board members present: Allen Utzig, Marsha Larrabee, Barbara Friedman, Tracey Smith, Randy Freeman, Jane McCabe

Board members absent: Jim Newkirk

Club members present: Wes Odell, Pat Maher, Tony Kawashima, Jaan Goad

Guests: None

Approval of minutes:

The minutes of the last regular meeting (June 12, 2023) which were distributed to Board members prior to the meeting were approved. (MOTION and second: Larrabee/Freeman)

Treasurer's Report:

Randy reported that the club presently has 283 members and there is \$7100 in the treasury.

Guest Issues:

None

Officer Report, VP – Administration:

Marsha announced that Dick Barbour has resigned as Director of Exhibits.

Registration is full for the St. David's Hospital Healing Arts Gallery exhibit which will run from August 25 to October 20.

There is no new information on the Georgetown Library exhibit called "Sun City Photography Club: A World Without Color" that will run from January 3 through February 11, 2024. (See details in minutes of the June 12 board meeting.) Installation time for the exhibit will be January 2 at 9 AM, artist reception will be on Friday, January 5 from 4 to 6 PM, and removal time will be February 12 at 9 AM.

The Annual Competition & Exhibit Committee will meet within the next few weeks. The major decision remaining is how to handle categories that have too few entries. Judges have been confirmed and will be invited to a short "Meet and Greet" a few weeks before the competition in order to confirm some submission rules and to get their input on how to handle ties. The final/official "Call for Photos" should go out no later than September 1.

We have another new onsite venue: the North Point Fitness Center. Photos went up quickly in time for the facility's Grand Opening. They will tentatively be changed out on September 1 but the confirmed date will be posted on the club calendar. Marsha is currently curating this venue.

Officer Report, VP – Education:

Barbara reported that the recent club survey results indicated that members are most interested in classes about composition and post-processing. This will be considered when developing future class plans.

Officer Report, VP – Programs & Events:

Tracey reported that upcoming general meeting speakers include Essdras Suarez via Zoom in August, Austin photographer John Langmore in September, and Linda Nickell in November. Tracey is still looking for a speaker for October.

Re: field trips, Tony Kawashima reported that the Jarrell rodeo trips (on two successive days) went well despite the excessive heat. There will be a “pop-up” field trip on Wednesday, July 12 to the Leander Fire Administration Training Ground. This was set up by Clint Bond who is a former firefighter. Attendees will be able to photograph firefighters in full gear performing training exercises. The field trip to Living Grace Canine Ranch is scheduled for August 17 from 9:30-noon. Tony is trying to contact Austin’s Cathedral of Junk owner to set up a trip there in September.

The Chalk Festival in Round Rock is scheduled for October 6 and 7, and the Taylor car show will be on October 28. Tony is still open to suggestions for a November trip. Marsha said that she just visited Sweet Eats Fruit Farm and that might be a good place to visit during their Fall Festival. Planning ahead for next year, the total solar eclipse on April 8 will be a big event that club members may want to prepare for. It was suggested that a class be offered ahead of time by someone with expertise in photographing eclipses. There will also be an annular eclipse this year on October 14 which could be a good time to practice for the total eclipse.

Old Business:

Summer Challenge – After the last board meeting it was decided that this year’s Summer Challenge would be to submit photos taken of people and/or places in Sun City, as requested by the Sun City Communications Department. They are looking for some new photos to use in their publications and possibly on the website. An email detailing submission guidelines went out to club members on July 2. Pat Maher reported that 64 files have been uploaded to the Dropbox folder for the Challenge. Allen raised the question of whether photo releases are needed for people who appear in the photos. Barbara thought that there may be a photo release that everyone signs along with their home purchase paperwork. Tracey will check on that.

Member Survey Results – Tracey provided handouts that summarized the survey results. There were 78 respondents which was 27.5% of the 283 members. Half of the respondents use iPhone cameras, 34.6% use Canon DSLR & mirrorless cameras, next most used are Nikon and Sony cameras. Self-assessed proficiency level of photographers ranges from 25.6% Intermediate, 24.4% Intermediate to Advanced, down to 10.3% each for Advanced and Absolute Beginner.

Highest-ranked categories under “What genre of photography appeals to you?” were Nature (including Landscape), Travel, Street (including Architecture) and Macro. Under “What would

you like to learn about?” top answers were Composition, Post-processing, Lighting for specific photos, Camera settings, and Critiquing/Evaluating my photo.

Responses regarding competing and exhibiting photos revealed that 50% of members are not interested in competing and 34.7% are not interested in exhibiting. Those who did express interest in competing and exhibiting tended to be the intermediate and advanced photographers.

Under “What types of club events interest you?” top answers were Special Interest Groups, Field trips, Discussion groups, Holiday gathering and Casual gatherings. The most desired elements of Field Trips included half-day outings with a specific object in mind, followed by full-day outings with specific learning objectives.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Presentation – Tracey’s friend James Spellos from the meetings industry has become an expert on Artificial Intelligence. Tracey contacted him and also approached the CA who approved having him come to Sun City as a speaker. He has been scheduled to speak on “Everything You Need to Know about Artificial Intelligence... But Were Afraid to Ask” on September 13 from 9-10:30 in the Ballroom. Tickets will be available on August 1 for \$6 on the Sun City website. This will be open to all Sun City residents but will be promoted to the club as there has been a lot of interest in this topic among our members.

Possible AI SIG – Wes Odell had proposed that the club start a SIG related to Artificial Intelligence. Tracey’s feeling is that there are not yet enough interested members to support a SIG but she suggested doing an interest inquiry. Barbara suggested setting up an informal discussion group for a few sessions to see if it appears viable to develop into a formal SIG. Wes expressed that his intent in proposing an AI SIG was mainly to allow those interested in incorporating AI into photography to have a place to do that and avoid conflict with others who may be resistant to using AI. There was general agreement that this would be a good approach and that it would be important to specify that the group would not be just for discussing opinions about AI but rather for those already interested in utilizing AI.

Revision of Bylaws – Marsha summarized previous discussion about whether the club would change the current Director positions to Vice President positions, which would require a revision of the bylaws. Marsha’s opinion is to leave the Director positions as Directors but to include them as non-voting members of the leadership team who would be expected to attend Board meetings. Pros and cons were discussed as well as the need for the currently posted version of the bylaws to be “cleaned up” in terms of formatting issues and inconsistencies. The question of changing the organizational structure will be tabled until the next meeting. A committee will be formed to correct the existing bylaws in the meantime.

Table for Mat Cutter – Allen reported that the CA has approved installation of a 4 foot long by 30” wide table to be placed in the studio against the wall in the open space between the main entry door and the back hallway door. This table would support a new mat cutter (not yet purchased). There was discussion of whether the cutter’s blades would need to be locked up and where to store them if so. Wes suggested that people look at the mat cutter setup that the Visual Arts club has in the Retreat amenity center for ideas on setting up our own. It was agreed that the new mat cutter should be purchased (within the parameters of the approved table size) before having a custom table made that may include a lockable drawer for blades. Allen will speak to Rich Lovass and ask him to make recommendations for a cutter.

Officer Nominations – Allen reported that Carlos and the Nominations Committee have not yet found interested candidates for the position of President for next year. Allen is writing an article for the next club newsletter that will talk about what the club has accomplished and the need for members to step up and volunteer for leadership positions in order to maintain the club's vitality.

New Business:

None

Adjournment:

MOTION to adjourn (Larrabee/Smith), passed. Meeting adjourned at 2:01 PM.

Jane McCabe, Secretary

Date of Approval: August 7, 2023