

Pratt Board of Trustees

Minutes

March 28, 2018

**Presiding:** Jenny Pohlman

**Attending:** Ralph Bufano, Lee Campbell, Preston Hampton, Cirihn Malpocher, Robin Kirschbaum, Len Lewicki, Richard Openshaw, Anna Skibska, Sam Smith, Madeline Pennington (via phone), Sara Traver, Richard Wortley, Monique Guevara, Bob Swain

**Staff:** Steve Galatro, Laura Hammarlund, Ryan Davis, Karina San Juan

**Advance Materials:** Agenda, January meeting minutes, Racial Equity Committee March meeting minutes, Pratt Finance Committee March meeting minutes, Company Snapshot As of February 28, 2018, Pratt Fine Arts Center Budget to Actual, Pratt Fine Arts Center Balance Sheet as of February 28, 2018.

**Regular meeting of the Board convened** at 6:00 in the drawing studio at Pratt Fine Arts Center with a quorum present; Len Lewicki moved to approve the minutes for Jan, Richard Openshaw seconded. Motion passed unanimous approval.

**2017 Audit:** Jenny asked that the 2017 audit be approved. Ralph Bufano moved to approve the audit, Richard Openshaw seconded. Motion passed unanimous approval.

**Racial Equity:** Preston Hampton reported on the committee. The committee is following four paths: 1) Education, training 2) Policy and Procedures, reviewing hiring guidelines, employee handbook 3) Community engagements, working with other organizations following similar paths 4) Direct Action, community action. The Racial Equity committee will start sending out minutes to the board in an effort to keep the board aware of its actions, and involved.

**Finance Report:** Robin Kirshbaum reported that Pratt has cash for 4.4 months of operations, that revenue as a percentage of expenses are a healthy 63%. No borrowing is needed. It was noted that next year as development we will see costs begin to increase. Robin also noted that more board members are needed on the committee, currently there are only three, making it difficult to have a quorum.

**Board Retreat:** Jenny Pohlman commented that the board retreat was a success, which included a good dialog with board and staff on racial equity lead by Shanna Cruchfield. Jenny passes around post-its so board member could write down personal commitments, repeating the exercise done at the retreat. The original set of notes was lost.

**Auction Committee:** Laura Hammerlund reported on the upcoming auction. There is 100% board participation. The Klorfine Foundation is again putting up a 50K matching gift. The Chihuly family will again give 10K matching gift for bids that exceed the fair market price. There are about 189 pieces of art

for the auction. In addition it was noted that Jubilee Event Engineers who manages Pratt auction won an award for last years auction.

**Directors Report:** Steve Galatro noted that the instructor show, Making our Mark show at BAM will be closing April 15. Ralph Bufano said that we should document the show for the future. Anna Skibska said that may be photos taken by a friend, and Sarah Traver said that the photographer from Traver gallery could also take photos. Steve also reports that some of the pieces from the show have be sold. Steve also reported that enrollment continues to be strong, that we are meeting and exceeding what was budgeted. Pratt's digital marketing strategy is giving good results. There is a high volume of events being planned and held. There are two workshops being held at Amazon each month. And there are free workshops being held at the Ernestine Anderson Place. Board recruitment is continuing, there is a good list that Steve and Jenny are looking at, but more names are welcomed. It was noted that with the campus development work starting to heat up, that help for Steve might be useful.

**Campus Development:** Steve Galatro reported on the community meeting held March 21. It was reported that there is strong objections to the current plan by the community. Various groups in the community feel that the current plan does address the needs, and does not respect the heritage of the Central District. The plan does not live up to the legacy Edwin T Pratt, Pratt namesake. It was felt that Daniels Real Estate was not prepared/aware of the community guidelines for new development in the Central District. The project as presented doesn't provide for low income housing, the design doesn't reflect the culture of the Central District, provide job and space for business that exist in the neighborhood. The feeling is that, as presented, the campus development would be opposed by the community. Steve reported that he wasn't surprised by the sentiment expressed, that he has been trying to tell DRE that this could happen. DRE response is that it is interested in listening to what the community groups are saying, that it is open to discussion with the various groups. Steve feels that there are several paths possible. One that DRE will meet demands and revise the plan, and will move forward. Second path would be that DRE cannot meet the requirements and pulls out. If this is the case, Pratt would not be liable, but need to start over. Third path would be that DRE could not meet the requirements, and sell the project to new partners. Fourth path would be that DRE forces their plan though, which would force Pratt to pull out. This would be a financial risk to Pratt. The feeling of the board is that Pratt should be on the side of the community, and that the development plan needs to change. The board wants to continue to work with DRE in order to make the changes to meet the community's requirements. At the beginning of the project, Pratt had presented a memo to Daniels Real Estate stating its goals of providing affordable housing and its desire to preserve the heritage of the community. Pratt will continue to follow those goals.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00.