

Minutes of the 8 January 2026 Fort Myers Beach Art Association Board Meeting

Board Meeting was held at 10 am in person at the Cypress Square Gallery.

The meeting was called to order by President Julie Nusbaum. The following were present:

Attendees		Board Members Not in Attendance
Current Board Members	Members/Guests	
Julie Nusbaum	Joann Lapadula	Michele Buelow
Terry Rehnborg	Joan Zeoli	Sue Simoneau
Kathy Taylor	Star Sherwood	Steve Eaton
Suzan Lanz	Jan Frish	Carol Baskin
Clair St. Louis	Sylvia Montgomery	Kathy Summer
		Sheri Fisher

A Quorum was not established.

Previous Meeting Minutes

The previous meeting minutes from December were not yet approved as requests for rewording the policy manual statements were edited. The next version will be sent out to the group and voting for approval will be during the February meeting.

Gallery Hours

The group previously discussed potentially changing the hours starting in February, however it was agreed that the hours will remain as stated and may change in September 2026.

Treasure Reports

Steve provided the reports, no issues were brought up. \$1000 was donated for scholarships and the Art Bazaar proceeds go towards the scholarship fund (aka Student Art Awards).

Membership to the SWFL Art Council was paid.

The group discussed that they would like an entry fee for all shows (including the non judged exhibits) including ART DEVINE Holiday Sale. However, we will not charge Commission during Art Devine Holiday Sale in 2026. In addition, we will plan on selling any extra ornaments during art devine that were made to support the Women's Club Christmas

Tree Festival. FMBAA will not be setting up a tent/booth and selling ornaments or minis at next years Festival.

Steve Eaton will try and cross train Robyn DeMattia on some accounting activities to reduce his workload.

Non-Profit Mission activities

We need to clearly tract our charitable activities for tax filing. Such as the following:

Food Drive

Student Art Awards

Photo In Mural for Lion's Kids Run, Feb 2026

Free Workshops

Open Paint

Harlem Heights activities (planning pending)

Space for Events

We discussed the topic of holding large events and that our current gallery is not large enough to have all members gather. We could potentially hold events under Alex King's building on FMB and as such potentially approach him to sponsor the event as needed.

Communication

We discussed that we could benefit from better communication on weekly activities to our members. *Action Item:* Suzan will ask Sue if a weekly newsletter/email is feasible.

We also discussed adding a regularly scheduled critique day to the calendar, need to determine date and time. We will use data from the recent survey to determine what would be best.

Artist to Artist Sale

Kathy Taylor has drafted the prospectus for this event. This sale is scheduled for March 5 and it is \$10 to enter and 20% of the proceeds will be given back to FMBAA (honor system) . Sign up sheets will be at the gallery reception desk. Advertisement for this event is needed. Perhaps Sue can put this in the news blast.

2027 Shrimp Fest Event

Joann Lapadula is finalizing the prospectus for the designing of the t-shirt for the 2027 Lion's Club Shrimp Festival. Once completed she will provide this to Tina from the Lion's club and Sue Simenou for the newsletter.

Putt and Pub on FMB by the Women's Club

Laura Black and Claire St. Louis are chairing our participation in this event on January 17, 2026. No issues to discuss. Volunteers are Star Sherwood, Suzan Lanz, Kathy Summer, Laura Black who will run the green at Nervous Nellies.

Calendar

Kathy Taylor has assembled a draft calendar for the 2026/2027 year. We are still awaiting the date for our juried show in Cape Coral for next season and will add it when possible. The FMBAA should plan one big event each year in season. Next year it is scheduled for January 29, 2027 and will be an "Open House".

Also, next summer we will not have shows every month but every 6 wks, so there will be three shows next summer, and 5 other shows, Fall, Winter, Spring, Art Devine Holiday Sale, Anything Goes.

Action Item: Can Publicity ensure that our events are added to the various calendars such as the Women's Club calendar, Alliance for the Arts and FMB chamber of commerce Doug McElheny at doug@fmbchamber.com?

Art Bazaar

Arlene Stigum will be the project lead for this Art Bazaar; a date is yet to be finalized.

Workshops

Several workshops are planned/upcoming. January 29, Kathy McMahon; Feb 5 & 6 is Karen Beuprie watercolor landscape; & Feb 7 is Michele Buelow's. Please reference the website for additional details.

Drop In is 1st Tuesday of the month. Kathy Summers is doing portraits the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month.

We'd like to have a weekly or monthly critique day/time. Need to decide dates and time.

We need to explore/evaluate streamlining the methods for class registration/payment. This will be further discussed at next meeting and with Helen, Jan and Steve on potential changes for next season.

Jan asked if the BOD has an issue with evening classes. No one is opposed.

In addition, Jan will be collecting ideas for potential workshops such as AI & Photoshop workshops.

Member Mixers

February 12 at 1pm and April 9th at 1pm. Members can bring in prepared food, some food and refreshments will be served. This meeting will introduce the slate of directors.

Audit

No issue, the next calendar Audit will commence after March 31, 2026. *Action Item:* Suzan will discuss folder structure with Helen as access is limited. Joann Lapadula is the next audit chairperson.

First Fridays

We've discussed hosting First Fridays to piggy back on the Alliance for the Arts receptions and Art Walk in FM River district on the first Fridays of each month. The plan is to serve refreshments and snacks from 4 to 6 pm on the first Friday of each month, starting Feb 6. This activity needs to be promoted, we will discuss with Susi Wing and Sue Simoneau on ways to get the word out.

Prior to shows

Instead of having Paul et al assist artists in wiring or framing at a show drop off, we propose to have a little training opportunity on the paint-in day (Wednesday) prior to the next show so that new or inexperienced members can check that they meet the prospectus requirements prior to drop off.

Please note that we request that there are no last minute changes to a show that differs from the prospectus/acceptance criteria.

Open Volunteer Positions

Additional hospitality volunteers
Historian

Membership

Current membership is at approximately 132.

Nomination Committee

The proposed 2026 slate is as follows:
President – Suzan Lanz (2nd yr) = 3 years
Vice President – Joanne Lapadula = 1 year
Treasurer = Steve Eaton (appointed)
Secretary Carol Baskin (2nd yr.) = 3 years
Terry Rehnborg (3rd yr) = 3 years
Sherri Fisher (2nd yr.) = 3 years
Julie Nusbaum (*2nd yr.) = 3 year
Kathy Taylor (2nd yr) = 2 years
Sue Simoneau (1 st yr.) = 2 years
Claire St. Louis (1st yr.) = 2 years
Kathy Summer (1st year) = 2 years
Open = to be filled

The Board needs to fill 2 director seats, and the Offices of the President & Secretary. As an even year we need eleven Directors. Proposed are Julie Nusbaum + open position as Directors, and Suzan Lanz and Carol Baskin for President and Secretary.

Survey

Vote to approve/accept the survey as presented. All in favor none opposed.

Student Awards

Claire to work on details for Student Awards for Cypress Lake High School.

Our Property

Donora Street - Currently status quo. Unless Sheri Fisher gets additional information for potential rental of our property.

Regarding our leased space at Cypress Square, Suzan will reach out to the property manager and mention our potential interest in leasing space (right of 1st refusal for openings). However, as this is our first year, we need to evaluate the financials and other factors as our lease draws down.

We may have the opportunity to do a private event at our Gallery for Alex King, Realtor. Additional information will be provided as it becomes available.

TDC Grant

Sylvia and Terry are leading the project. Additional information will be discussed at further meetings.

Meeting Adjourned 12:14pm

Motion to adjourn: 1st Claire St. Louis, 2nd Suzan Lanz, none opposed.