

Grand Rapids Camera Club
Board Meeting
May 10, 2023

Members in Attendance:, Evie Carrier, Jan Lewis, Jeanne Quillan, Steve Port, Greg Ferguson, Jack Eichner, Mike Bergeon and Della Landheer.

Absent: Shealyn McGee Sarns, Kathy Kendall, Richard Coombs, Christine Mooney.

Meeting called to order by President Jan Lewis at 7:05 pm via Zoom.

Approval of Minutes: Della Landheer

March 8, 2023 minutes approved as submitted.

Presidents Report: Jan Lewis

- 2023 Elections: Positions up for election are President, VP of Programs and Secretary. Della has agreed to continue as Secretary. No one has agreed to run as VP/Programs or President. Jan has asked members and been turned down multiple times. 3 Board positions; Steve Port, Richard Coombs, Jack Eichner— all have agreed to run again. Open position (1 year term Ruth Thornton volunteered to run for this position. Board needs to plan on how to proceed without ~~these~~ two officer positions filled. Programs are critical. One solution is that each board member be assigned a month and they would be responsible for securing a program for that month.
- Joe Mancy volunteered to help where needed.
- Rick Veldman could do a program on drones, Jan penciled him in for September.
- Jan asked for board members to book programs, Steve volunteered for a month. Jeanne suggested a critiquing program. Jan will reach out to Joe LaPeyra for a program. Mike could do a program on earth/moon eclipses. One or two Zoom presentations would be alright, too.
- During the discussion...Steve talked to Russ regarding VP of Programming, he said yes, he is willing. Jan will add his name to the ballot.
- Jan will not be in town for the June 21 club meeting. Jeanne will handle meeting.
- Elections: Mike B. proposed to vote via Google email again. Seconded by Jack. Motion passed.
- Time to return to in-person Board meetings? No decision, most seem to prefer Zoom meetings, tabled for now.

Treasure and Membership Reports: Christine Mooney

- Checking account balance is \$8,630.23. Pay Pal account balance is \$202.35 for a total of \$8,832.58. Equipment Fund balance: \$1,910.61 (this amount is included in the checking acct. balance).
- New members: 2 in January, 3 in February, 4 in March, 3 in April. 88 are on the member list, 70 are paid members to date. 18 did not renew.

Website Report: Shea

- Squarespace account has been set up, paid for, and Shea has been working on the design, could be up and running by June.
- We are now being charged the additional \$5/month fee at Dreamhost due to our out of date PHP software.

Membership Outreach Committee Report: Jack Eichner

- Questionnaires could possibly be out by June.

VP Programs Report: Evie Carrier

- May—Sheen Watkins, how and why of wildlife/landscape photography.
- June—Diane Durand, photographing vehicles.
- Evie has leftover ideas she will share for programming.

VP Competition Report: Jeanne Quillan

- 2024 Assigned Subjects: responses due to Jeanne by May 14th.
- Joel Westmaas suggested a new gallery exhibition venue. Application will go to Jeanne, Randy and Jack. Jack also suggested Lowell for an exhibition.
- AI policy for GRCC competition. All current programs, i.e. Photoshop, Topaz, etc., use AI. “Normal AI” starts with a photo and ends with a photo. Consensus appears to be needing to establish a separate category for AI Creative and score the entries. Also, any AI entry should start with a photograph, not be a totally created image via AI. Jan’s goal is to have a final AI policy by September. Most agree that the Open category should not contain any AI created imagery. Jan will call a meeting for May 31 to address the issue of AI when all board members can be present, date subject to change if all cannot attend. PSA and possibly other clubs will be contacted to gather their input.

Lights and Shadows: Greg Ferguson

- Next Deadline: May 23, noon. Greg having computer issues, might have to resort to a Word doc.

Educational Zoom Meetings: Steve Port and Russ Barneveld

- May 22 next meeting. Submit images that give inspiration. Will meet again June 26 then break for summer.

Workshops/Trips/Outings:

- ODC report: event brought in \$950. \$10 sent back to Lynn Gibbs, \$920 total collected. Fee paid to ODC \$500, profit to club \$450.
- Jan calling for other ideas. Consider a trip to Gilmore Museum, Evie will check on it.

Old business: None**New business:**

- Fundraising suggestion—Della Landheer. After discussion, Della will put together the specific costs of a mailing based on current and past member lists for the May 31 meeting.

Next Board meeting: Addendum meeting May 31.

Meeting adjourned by President Jan Lewis at 9:44 pm.

Minutes submitted by Della Landheer, Secretary

Special GRCC Board Meeting—May 24, 2023

Present: Christine Mooney, Evie Carrier, Jan Lewis, Jeanne Quillan, Richard Coombs, Steve Port, Shealyn McGee Sarns, Kathy Kendall, Jack Eichner, Mike Bergeon and Della Landheer.
Absent: Greg Ferguson

Meeting called to order by President Jan Lewis at 7:32.

President's Report:

1. June—Ice Cream Social—Evie will purchase ice cream and supplies. Kathy will help.
2. Jeanne will run the June meeting in Jan's absence, Randy will determine what mic to use.

Old Business:

Fundraising Proposal— Della Landheer

Della made a proposal that GRCC send a flyer and donor envelope via mail to current members and selected past members in September asking for donations to the club to offset new website expenses.

Steve Port made a motion to accept the proposal with a \$150 limit, seconded by Evie. Discussion followed.
Vote, 7 yes, 3 no, motion passed.

AI policy for GRCC competition—Jeanne Quillan

Jeanne solicited and received the following information from PSA and the Greater Lynn Photographic Association, Lynn, MA— Rick Cloran, Chairman of the Board. Club is also a member of The New England Camera Club Council.

From PSA:

Images created purely or substantially by AI will not be allowed in any division. Original_raw or jpeg files may be requested for final review if the image is in question. The use of AI image enhancement tools such as in Photoshop or Topaz will be restricted. Most AI enhancement tools such as noise and sharpness are fine, In Color and Monochrome, so far the only tool that is not acceptable is the sky replacement tool and this can only be used with the maker's own skies. Of Course, replacing the sky is not acceptable in any reality-based competition, (Nature, PJ and Travel). As Photoshop and other 3rd party software continue to offer more and more AI enhancements, Interclub will be looking at this carefully throughout the year.

From Greater Lynn Photo Association:

Image Creation.

Entries must originate as photographs (image-captures of objects via light sensitivity) made by the entrant on photographic emulsion or acquired digitally.

This is interpreted as meaning an image generated by the use of an AI application would not be eligible. A number of PSA exhibitions are now adding a line indicating that images generated entirely by computer are not eligible just to cover off the potential use for creative images in PID-C sections of the exhibitions. In addition, things like clip art and images that may be downloaded from the internet (royalty free or otherwise) also are not allowed.

At the heart of the question is a basic "philosophical" decision that the club or organization needs to make. Is it a photography club or is it an art association open to digital media produced by use of a computer program's interpretation of input? If the organization determines it is a photography club, then the images used, even in creative / alter reality, should originate as photographs made by the submitting member. That tenet can be refined at the organizational level as to whether the entire image must be based solely on one or more photographs made by the maker or if some amount of content generated by a computer program, plug-in application, or the like is allowed in certain categories.

After reviewing all the input, Jeanne recommends GRCC allowing images which include AI created imagery in the Creative category only. The main subject must be a photograph. Discussion ensued between Board members. By show of hands, most board members agree AI must be entered only in Creative. Some preferred a separate Creative AI category. Jeanne will rewrite her motion to be sent out to Board members for feedback. Jeanne and Jan will confer on a written motion to be emailed to the board. We will need a second on the proposed motion. Any email comments must be made by REPLY TO ALL, so that the entire Board is in on any electronic discussion. Jan will call for a vote after email discussion.

President Position:

Richard Combs talked about no volunteer president having come forward. Bylaws say if no person volunteers to run for the president's position, the current president must stay on. Steve talked about the board being a team, can we all pitch in? No decision was made.

Meeting adjourned by Jan at 9:09.

Minutes submitted by Della Landheer, Secretary