

Christopher seeks gallery display schedule change

By CRAIG MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

Lore Christopher is liking the growing popularity of the gallery display at Keizer Civic Center.

Taking it a step further, Christopher announced a new plan at the April 26 Keizer Public Arts Commission (KPAC) meeting: locking in groups to provide art on a multi-year basis.

Previously, groups or individuals have had art on display in city hall for a three-month period. That was changed this year to two-month periods.

Christopher would like three groups — Mid Valley Quilt Guild, Salem-Keizer Education Foundation and the Colored Pencil Society of America — to become regulars.

“What I would like to propose is six shows a year,”

Christopher said. “I would recommend multi-year contracts, for three years. I would like those regular vendors not to have to submit art, because they’re familiar to us. We still have final approval, in case they try to slip one in. But these vendors won’t do that. This would be good for artists and for us. It cuts down on staff time to submit work.”

Amy Ryan liked the idea, but wanted the contracts to be for five years.

“No, too long,” Christopher said. “That’s too long into the future. I’m even nervous about three years.”

KPAC chair Beth Melendy went the other direction.

“I would amend it to two years,” Melendy said. “There’s now so much interest in the gallery. We’re talking half of the year and only allowing

three other groups per year to come in. I like the idea of a contract, but three years feels too long. I’m saying the three groups for two years. Maybe start with two-year contracts, then we can extend it.”

Christopher wasn’t willing to amend her motion for that change, either.

“There has been consistent interest, but people are not beating our door down yet,” she said. “If you want to go two (years), vote my motion down. I like three years for the planning for those organizations. If we fill those other nine spots, then we can do a two-year contract next time.”

Nate Brown, Keizer’s Community Development director who is staff liaison to KPAC, liked the idea of partnering with the three organizations.

“You can start with three, then see what develops,” Brown said.

Christopher said the contracts would start in 2017.

“I’ll contact those folks, tell them here’s what we want to propose, then let them pick their months for the next three years,” she said.

The motion was approved unanimously.

The SKEF show runs through the end of this month, with nothing planned for June. Red Raven Gallery Co-Op is scheduled for July and August, with artist Randy Jones and photographer Michael Burkhardt sharing space in September and October. Columbia Fiber Arts will have work on display in November and December.

A Secret Garden tea



The Keizer Art Association held its annual fundraising tea on Saturday, May 14, at the Keizer Heritage Center.

Tea hats of the attendees matched the theme: A Secret Garden.

Award for best themed went to Elaine Martinez with her birdhouse diorama.

Allison Hupp won best garden hat and Beth Melendy won best bird hat.



A: (From left) Allison, Karen and Barbara Hupp made the tea a family affair.

B: Beth Melendy shows off her bird and feather hat with her peacock ring.

C: Leighanna Sharp (left) and Amy Lietz

D: Elaine Martinez with her birdhouse diorama tea hat.

KEIZERTIMES/Lyndon A. Zaitz



KT on vacation



Submitted photo

Al and Anne Rasmus carried their Keizertimes all the way back east, to the original Wahlburgers location in Hingham, Massachusetts. The A&E reality-TV show of the same name follows the Wahlburg family business.

You too can have your photo in the Keizertimes. Simply take the paper to your destination, snap a picture with you and your group holding it, and send the photo along with everyone’s first and last names to kt@keizertimes.com.

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