

Meeting Minutes for Ennis Arts Association Quarterly Business Meeting

MEETING DETAILS

Location: **Madison Valley Public Library Meeting Room
210 Main Street
Ennis, MT 59729**

Date/Time: **April 7, 2026, 10:00 AM**

ATTENDEES:

Louise Stevens, President
Barbara Chalupa, Treasurer
Lori Fink, Secretary
Chelsee Mahsman
Barbara Gillispie
Margie Reck
Valerie Klaber, Scholarship Chair
Jen Doney
Helen Harris

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Louise Stevens at 10:05 AM.

HANDOUTS

Four documents were distributed to attendees:

- **EAA April 7, 2026 Business Meeting Agenda**
- **List of Garden Tour Participants and Contacts**
- **EAA Financial View 4/7/2026**
- **Public Art Framework for Ennis, MT Document**

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES, FEBRUARY 10, 2026, MEETING

The February 2026 minutes were previously sent via email to the entire membership.

MOTION: A motion was made (Barbara Gillispie) and seconded (Chelsee Mahsman) to accept the February meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

II. REVIEW OF ARTISTS JURIED INTO THE MVAF

1. There were two new jurors: One from McAllister who is member of the quilters' group and the other from Island Park who is new to EAA.
2. Kent and Sue did a wonderful job with Sue handling all of the hard copy entries and Kent handling the digital ones. Sue then managed the presentation to the jurors.

3. There were a total of 56 applicants with 8 rejected. With some artist having two booth spaces and also the high school booth, 59 spaces are filled. It is unsure (yet hopeful) that the high school will have a booth.
4. One thing to keep in mind for next year's budget is moving to a digital application process. This would eliminate post office runs and a great deal of paperwork. It would also put all applications on an equal footing instead of some being hard copies and some being digital copies. Kent and Sue are looking into the cost of switching to a digital application platform. Another option is to build our own application platform using Google forms. This wouldn't cost us and could be used with Square to collect fees.
5. It may be a good idea to offer a workshop/training for preparing submissions.

MOTION: A motion was made (Jen Doney) and seconded (Val Klaber) to move the MVAF application process to online/digital starting next year, with training for application submissions available if needed.

Motion passed unanimously.

6. A question came up as to how a writer would be able to submit their work for entry to the festival. It was agreed that we may have to come up with a procedure for this.
7. Louise will attempt to get a list of artists accepted for the festival so that they can be promoted on the EAA Facebook page as soon as possible.

III. CONFIRMATION OF FOOD TRUCKS; MUSICIANS FOR MVAF

1. Louise has the musician's contracts and the food truck agreement.
2. Val suggested investigating the feasibility of incorporating Birdie Burgers as a second food vendor. They sell smash burgers at the Madison Meadows Golf Course.
3. It was suggested that we also measure the driveway where the food truck usually sits as it isn't as long as in the past. We may not have room for another vendor.
4. Should we consider asking the Presbyterians/Episcopals to offer pie and ice cream as was recently featured at the Fly-Fishing Festival.
5. Sheri (Pizza Wagon) may be interested in a sandwich only booth. Again, having room may be an issue.
6. There are two musical acts this year: The Fan Mountain Frog Dogs and a solo act recommended by Kent.

IV. OTHER MVAF BUSINESS

1. Louise reported that she had asked for a \$600 donation from the Women's Club for children's activities this year. The donation received was \$1000. Last year we only had \$350 allotted for the kids activities, so this would free up funds for other things – musicians, etc.
2. Last year we only had the face painter for two hours (subsequently extended another hour on the day of as she donated her tips back to EAA). This year we could extend the hours or have two painters instead of one. We could extend the children's activities to all day instead of only three hours as long as we could get volunteers to cover. We could consider adding an activity for the kids that would be in conjunction with a public art project.
3. We have three raffle items so far – a quilt, a metal photographic print and a pottery bowl.

4. We should consider using QR Codes that all could have in their booths that would lead to both our vendor and attendee surveys, instead of doing paper surveys.
5. Brent Oliver is our contact at Madison Valley Bank for festival coordination. His phone number is 406-579-1714.

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V. BLOOMS & BRUSHES UPDATES

1. We have seven stops this year; three are in Virginia City and four are in Ennis.
2. Tour is Saturday, August 15th from 10-3 and tickets are \$10.
3. More artists are needed. Those interested should contact Helen Harris.
4. Volunteers are needed for each garden for an approximate 2.75-hour commitment. Each volunteer will receive a ticket for the tour.
5. The Fly-Fishing Festival is happening the same day, but this probably won't draw participants away from our event.

VI. BUDGET REPORT (See handout)

1. Revenue is starting to pick up. Total revenue to date is \$2010, \$65 of which was a accidental MVA application fee deposit. This may need to be reimbursed if the artist was not accepted to the festival.
2. We have 61 paid memberships with three more received today but not yet deposited.
3. Total expenditures to date are \$1841.87. Please see handout for details.
4. Pending expense: We will pay an honorarium of \$200 to Juliene Sinclair for her Public Art workshop presentation.

VII. GRANTS REPORT

1. Louise is preparing a grant application to 3 Rivers for \$5000 for public art projects. We hope to get another \$5000 next year.
2. Louise is looking to match this grant with a \$5000 request to the Women's Club.
3. Another possibility is the Lion's Club. Louise will make a presentation at their next meeting in two weeks. They may be interested in tying in public art in the region of the playground at the park.
4. Louise has applied for a \$1000 grant from Montana Arts Council as well.

VIII. PUBLIC ART FORUM; POLICY PAPER; BUILDING OWNER INTEREST TO DATE; CALL FOR ARTISTS (See handout)

1. The policy is written primarily for murals but also includes a multifaceted range of installed public art including sculpture, stained glass, fountains, etc.
2. Louise has shared a copy of this with the mayor who has indicated support for EAA being the official entity for public art in Ennis.
3. Louise has also prepared a letter to building owners to assess interest in murals. We have gotten interest from the town for a possible installation at the town hall.
4. The Senior Center has also expressed interest in a mural.
5. EAA would pay for 50% of the cost of the mural, not including prep work or materials. The building owner pays the other 50% which would be a tax write off to them.
6. Cost is between \$40 and \$60 per square foot for a mural. If we receive the grant money we are requesting, we could do two ~ 10'x16' murals a year.
7. Juliene Sinclair will do her presentation on April 16th at 5:00 pm at the library.

MOTION: A motion was made (Lori Fink) and seconded (Barbara Gillispie) that we proceed with grant applications to 3 Rivers and the Women's Club for public art funding,

and that letters be sent to local building owners to assess interest in the public art project.

Motion passed unanimously.

IX. SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

1. Val has only received one application.
2. She has also touched base with all the high schools again as a reminder.
3. We hope to get more applications by the deadline.
4. The presentation at Ennis High was very well received.

X. OTHER/NEW BUSINESS

1. Chelsea suggested that we may want to offer a gift/perk of a canvas tote bag with our logo or the festival logo to the first 100 attendees. We could include a membership application. We should discuss this at the organizational meeting.
2. The first MVAF Organizational meeting will be April 21st at 10:00 am at the library in the small meeting room.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 12:07 PM.

The next EAA Quarterly Meeting will be held at the Madison Valley Library on June 9, 2026, at 10:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Fink, Secretary