

Bellingham Arts Commission Minutes

Tuesday, March 4, 2008, 6:00 p.m.

Mayor's Board Room

Commission Members Present: Alex Wiley Debbie McCunn
 Denise Snyder Jo Morgan
 Shirley Erickson Pearl Yewell
 Cathy Gersich Curt Carpenter
 AnMorgan Curry

Commission Members Absent: David Meyer

Staff Members Present: Tara Sundin, PCDD
 Darby Galligan, PCDD
 Fiona Starr, PCDD

1. CALL TO ORDER

Arts Commission meeting was called to order by Alex Wiley, Chair

2. Introductions and Public Comment

Alex introduced Sheryl Davis and Becky Hutchins from Allied Arts, and Jan Olsen from The Whatcom Museum.

There was no public comment

3. Presentations

Mayor Pike - Introduction to the Arts Commission.

Mayor Pike was unable to attend the meeting. The order of the agenda was revised. Staff will look into rescheduling.

4. Arts Commission Business

a) Approval of January 8, 2008 minutes

Shirley Erickson was not at the January 8th meeting and just needs her name removed under present. Alex asked that the minutes be amended to include clarification about the call for Velocity going out, specifically that the artists would visit the site and then develop the plan.

Denise Snyder moved and Curt Carpenter seconded the approval of the January 8, 2008 minutes with the amendments. All in favor, motion carried unanimously.

b) Subcommittee Re-assignments

Alex removed herself from grant committee and Cathy Gischer will take her place. Pearl will be on special projects committee.

Shirley mentioned that Big Rock Garden is working on a projected plan.

c) Whatcom Creek Artwork – Darby

Darby is now taking over a project that started with Sheila with the new boardwalk along Whatcom Creek. A few years ago a contract was drawn up with an artist to install art on poles along the boardwalk. However at that time the installation was unstable and in order to keep going on the project it had to be structurally engineered. Darby has been in contact with the artist, Elizabeth Conner, who still plans to go forward with the project. The estimated start date would be around the beginning of June with completion at the end of that month.

On a separate item, Darby explained that there are a couple of events currently going through the Small and Simple Grant Process that also qualify as projects the Arts Commission could fund. One is for the 2nd annual Public Hanging Art Exhibit at the Blue Horse Gallery and the other is for the 3rd annual Plein Air Paintout of Downtown Landmarks. Because of the high volume of Small and Simple grant applications received this year, there is not enough funding for everyone who applied. Darby opened it up for discussion for the Commissioners to decide if they wanted to fund these events separately. They decided to wait until the results for the Small and Simple were in and will revisit this at another meeting.

5. Mayor's Arts Awards – Alex Wiley

The Mayor's Arts Awards will be on April 23rd. There were 30 applications submitted and the Grant Sub-Committee recommended 20 of those to receive an award.

Denise asked why Janae Hodge wasn't listed as a nominee for Joel Gillman and Rich Brown. Shannon will get back to her on that.

Some nominations that weren't accepted were for history related events. Although the value to our community is significant, the Mayor's Arts Awards is not the best forum to honor those involved in historical contributions. Other nominations were for events that happened in 2008 and will be eligible for next year's awards celebration. After discussing if some kind of recognition should be given to all the nominees either through a letter or on the event program, they decided against that.

Cathy Gischer moved and Debbie McCunn seconded the approval of the 2007 Mayor's Arts Awards recommended winners. All in favor, motion carried unanimously.

6. Update on Sculpture Inventory / Maintenance Program – Jan Olson, Whatcom Museum

Jan Olsen shared the almost complete cataloging system for all pieces of public art. Jan has worked as a curator for over 34 years and this has been a dream project of Jan's for a very long time. It finally became possible with the help of an intern working towards her master's degree. Each piece of art has been photographed, given a number, and lists out as much information as possible in regards to the artist and when the piece was acquired. A hard copy and the electronic database will be shared with both Planning & Parks. The next step is to use this information to create a maintenance and restoration plan. Often when art is purchased, restoration isn't factored in but should be in order to maintain or increase the value over time. According to recent surveys of various museum collections across the country most do not have a preservation plan in place and have done a poor job of maintenance. What this means is that there could be some

possible grant money for restoration and maintenance available in the future. If we can get a preservation plan in place, we can go out and acquire funding. Jan encouraged the commissioners to call her and make an appointment to see the collection and also if anyone has missing information on any of the cataloged pieces

BELLINGHAM ARTS COMMISSION PUBLIC MEETING (S): ADJOURNED: 6:45PM

Minutes prepared by:

Minutes edited by:

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