

Bellingham Arts Commission Minutes
Tuesday, June 3, 2008, 6:00 p.m.
Mayor's Board Room

Commission Members Present: Alex Wiley, Denise Snyder, AnMorgan Curry, David Meyer, Christopher Morrison, Cathy Gersich, Debbie McCunn

Commission Members Absent: Jo Morgan, Pearl Yewell, Curt Carpenter, Shirley Erickson

Staff Members Present: Shannon Taysi, PCDD, Darby Galligan, PCDD

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. Introductions and Public Comment

Becky Hutchins introduced herself. She is currently working with an organization by the name of Historic Bellingham which is encouraging the Port to assess the potential for the adaptive reuse of the buildings on the Port property. She is seeking the Arts Commission's support in approaching the Port regarding this issue. She said the Mayor hasn't made a statement but there has been support from some City Staff. Becky can be contacted at artandartifact@yahoo.com. She said hopefully next week the organizations' website will be operational. The website address will be www.historicbellingham.org.

Becky said the Granary Building, located on the Port site, has been identified by Washington State as an endangered structure. She said the Port will be publishing an infrastructure design that shows a road where the Granary building current stands. Historic Bellingham would like to have a conversation with the Port prior to any potential demolition of historic structures. She is looking to the Arts Commission to write a letter of support in retaining these buildings.

Alex Wiley asked when Becky needs the letter submitted. Becky said the thirty day comment period begins on June 10th. Shannon Taysi asked Debbie McCunn if she would be willing to draft a letter and circulate to the Commission for feedback and finalization. Debbie agreed to work on the letter. Becky will e-mail Shannon when the website is live.

2. Traffic Box Murals – Darby Galligan, PCDD and Victor Sanders

Darby Galligan introduced Victor Sanders, a student interested in bringing the traffic box mural project to Bellingham. This project entails identifying traffic boxes that are in the public realm that could be enhanced by artwork. He stated this project has been successful in other communities. He is proposing to create some policies and guidelines for the program and assist in the implementation of the project in Bellingham. Victor gave a power point presentation of his proposal. He highlighted:

- Scope of work
- Logistics
- Appropriate mural topics and materials
- Approval process for approving the murals
- Funding policies
- Success in other communities
- Potential pilot locations in Bellingham

Alex asked once the murals are painted are they considered permanent. Victor said most cities have a signed agreement with the artists which states they will either come back and maintain the mural or another artist can take the previous artists place and paint a new mural. He also said other cities have chosen to print vinyl stickers that can be placed over the box. This allows for easier replacement and removal.

Darby will draft a response to Victor's proposal. Once Victor finalizes his proposal for Bellingham the Arts Commission will make a final decision on the project.

3. WTA Sculpture Update – Darby Galligan

The Commission was given a picture of the artwork created by the selected artist for the WTA sculpture. The jury liked the work of the artist but is interested in viewing other of the artists' artwork. The jury is interested in a piece that may be more appropriate for the site. In the next month the jury will be going to the artists' studio to discuss options and view other sculptures.

4. Other Arts Commission Business

a) Approval of May 6, 2008 Meeting Minutes

There were no minutes prepared for approval.

b) July 1, 2008 Agenda Items


- Final letter for the Port regarding preservation of historic buildings on the Port property.
- WTA Final Scheduling
- Traffic Box Murals Follow-Up

5. For the Good of the Order

- Alex will be introducing all the bands for Downtown Sounds again this year.
- Alex and Tara Sundin will be meeting soon to discuss the Arts Commission budget.
- Shannon will be working on updating the Mayor's Arts Award nomination form for 2009.

BELLINGHAM ARTS COMMISSION PUBLIC MEETING (S): ADJOURNED: 7:10PM

Minutes prepared by:


Shannon Taysi, PCDD Staff

Minutes edited by:


Darby Galligan, PCDD Staff