

Bellingham Arts Commission Minutes
Tuesday, August 5, 2008, 6:00 p.m.
Mayor's Board Room

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

Commission Members Absent: David Meyer, Christopher Morrison

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

Others Present: Jeni Cottrell

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. Introductions and Public Comment

There was no public comment.

3. Whatcom Museum of History and Art Totems – Jan Olson, Whatcom Museum

Jan Olson introduced herself. She gave a brief history on the City owned totems located behind the Whatcom Museum of History and Art. These totems have been in a state of disrepair for some time. Jan explained that although historically totem poles were intended to decompose over time, these are artistic examples that were intended for education and preservation. Three years ago the Museum had the pieces assessed by a conservator, Andrew Todd, to estimate the extent of damage that has occurred over the years. Mr. Todd's estimated cost to restore these two totems came to \$8775.00. The Museum does not have money to restore the pieces. The two totems have recently been moved from their current location and relocated to off sight storage. AnMorgan Curry asked about the possibility of installing the pieces indoors. Jan said she isn't the person that would make that decision. Jan departed the meeting. Shannon Taysi said she thought this is a good starting point for the Arts Commission to consider assessing the entire collection and prioritizing pieces that need maintenance. The Commission has had several conversations about implementing a maintenance program for the collection. She also said she felt this estimate might be high and would want to see other estimates. There was a discussion regarding the possibility of installing the work inside either the existing Museum or the new Museum. The Arts Commission could possibly help cover the cost to prepare the totems for indoor installation. Alex Wiley will find out what the Museum thinks about this idea.

4. 1400 Orleans Street Generator Building – Darby Galligan, PCDD

The Commission reviewed the proposal for a small generator building located on parks property at 1400 Orleans Street. There were no objections to the building.

Denise Snyder moved and Jo Morgan seconded the approval of the generator building to be located at 1400 Orleans Street. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Pavilion at Boulevard Park Roof – Darby Galligan, PCDD

Darby Galligan explained the current roof of the pavilion building is flat and parks is proposing to have a peaked roof installed. Curt Carpenter had some comments. He felt the new eave depth needs to be at least as deep as the existing eave depth. Additionally, he said it appears from the drawing there are exposed boards between the top of the walls and the roofline. He would like to see a piece of trim installed to cover any exposed boards.

Shirley Erickson moved and Denise Snyder seconded the approval of the roof with the suggestions that the eave length match the existing eave length and a trim board will cover any exposed boards near the roofline. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Approval of Minutes

Approval of the May 6, 2008 minutes

Shirley Erickson moved and AnMorgan Curry seconded the approval of the May 6, 2008 minutes. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of the June 3, 2008 minutes

Debbie McCunn is not listed as present and was present at the June 3rd meeting.

Debbie McCunn moved and AnMorgan Curry seconded the approval of the June 3, 2008 minutes with the minor edit. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Items for September 2, 2008 Arts Commission Meeting

- Victor Sanders to present Traffic Box Mural project
- Municipal Arts Grant Application
- Improvement to “Call for Art” process
- Bylaw review

7. Other Business

VELoCITY

Alex said the Alley Concerts have had a great turn out and VELoCITY is causing a lot of public interest. Shirley Erickson said she has several comments regarding VELoCITY. She said she has heard several negative comments about the show. She said she was very disappointed in the show. She feels that the jury process needs to be looked at more closely. She said the artwork should reflect the theme "Back to Center" and VELoCITY as the call states and this show does not. She added the increase in stipend was intended to attract a higher quality work. Shannon said the stipend increase was based upon the Commissions previous discussions that a \$250 stipend was not enough to cover installation of artwork. Shirley also mentioned the call for art was for new works only and the new works should carry the theme "back to center". Shannon said the call stated both new and already created works would be accepted. Alex suggested that Shirley write down specific concerns regarding this show and what Shirley would recommend be done in the future. Alex feels a more constructive conversation could occur if her comments were in writing. Alex said the Commission could look into setting criteria for jury selection or have a jury pool. Darby stated that this will be part of the policies and procedures that are currently being developed. Alex also suggested the Commission maintain a post mortem file for each project. Both staff and commission member's perspectives should be documented.

Traffic Box Murals

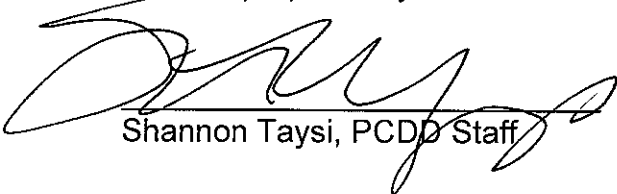
Darby met with Victor Sanders (the student working on the traffic box mural project). He has put together a comprehensive packet to present to the Commission regarding the project. Darby said an area that still needs to be identified is ownership of the program once it is established. AnMorgan suggested Victor may want to talk to Hand to Mouth gallery. It is a local gallery that has interest in community projects. Darby said she will invite Victor to attend the September meeting.

For the Good of the Order:

- The final alley concert is Wednesday August 6th.
- This weekend, August 9th and 10th, is La Bella Strata, the Chalk Art Festival and the Bite of Bellingham
- Mid August there is a concert at Big Rock Garden featuring "The Unusuals"

BELLINGHAM ARTS COMMISSION PUBLIC MEETING (S): ADJOURNED: 7:22PM

Minutes prepared by:



Shannon Taysi, PCDD Staff

Minutes edited by:



Darby Galligan, PCDD Staff