

Bellingham Arts Commission (BAC) Minutes
Tuesday, November 5, 2008, 6:00 p.m.
Mayor's Board Room

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

Commission Members Absent: Denise Snyder, Pearl Yewell, Shirley Erickson

Staff Members Present: Darby Galligan, PCDD, Fiona Starr, PCDD, Heather Higgins-Aanes, PW Environmental Services

Others Present: Jenni Cottrell, Dominique Zervas, Kelli Hart, Allied Arts Executive Director

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. Presentations

a. Whatcom Creek Trail Art Project – Darby Galligan, PCDD / Wendy Scherrer, Parks

Through an internship with the Parks Department, Wendy Scherrer is managing the Whatcom Creek Trail Art Project. This phase of the project focuses on the lower part of Whatcom Creek by Maritime Heritage Park up to the Senior Center and will incorporate additional art pieces with the City's existing art inventory to strengthen the connection people have with Whatcom Creek. Wendy is here this evening to share this conceptual plan with the Arts Commission and receive preliminary approval to go ahead with the next steps. Those next steps include creating guidelines for submittal, selection, and placement of art, securing funding, receiving final approval, and maintenance. One member of the Bellingham Arts Commission is invited to serve on the Whatcom Creek Salmon Art Trail Advisory Committee to help guide this process.

AnMorgan Curry moved and Debbie McCunn seconded the approval of the Whatcom Creek Trail Art Project conceptual plan. All in favor, motion carried unanimously

Debbie McCunn will serve on the advisory committee for the Whatcom Creek Trail Art Project.

b. Downtown Sounds Re-Cap – Downtown Renaissance Network

Kirsten Walker and Lindsay Paine from Downtown Renaissance recapped this summer's Downtown Sounds Concert Series. It was again a successful event and brought one thousand people to the alley between Wild Buffalo and Mindport on four separate Wednesdays. Next year will be the 5th anniversary of this event and they have outgrown the alley space. They propose to move the concert to Bay Street and Holly for more space as well as the opportunity to highlight this intersection as the gateway to the arts district.

4. Arts Commission Business

a) Approval of October 7, 2008 Minutes

David Meyer moved and Cathy Gersich seconded the approval of the October 7th, 2008 minutes . All in favor, motion carried unanimously

b) Formal Action on Waterfront – Darby

Several commissioners attended recent waterfront meetings held by the city. When asked if they wanted to send a formal letter to the Mayor expressing the BAC's position on the waterfront, Alex and Curt volunteered to do so and will copy the rest of the commissioners.

c) Welcome to Bellingham Mural – Darby

The commissioners agreed not to put the Welcome to Bellingham Mural on the maintenance inventory. This is not a permanent piece and in their opinion, repainting it would not be an improvement

AnMorgan Curry moved and Curt Carpenter seconded to leave the mural as is. All in favor, motion carried unanimously,

d) Special Project Team Project Ideas – Darby

Funds were allocated to the following special projects:

Bay Street Event - \$3000. This would go towards partnering with Downtown Renaissance and other local businesses.

Traffic Box Murals - \$0. This will be revisited in the future and funding will be made available based on the success of this project

Glass Panel Assessment – TBD. An estimate is needed for the cost of an assessment that would outline the basic parameters to assist in final placement.

Children's Art Education Workshops or Juried Art Show – \$2000. This will go towards funding a work shop or special event for middle school students.

City Hall Art Show – TBD. Get an estimate on display cases to bring to the December meeting.

Maintenance of Existing Artwork Collection - \$10,000. This additional \$10,000 is allocated for a total of \$25,000 to perform maintenance of the existing public artwork collection.

Debbie McCunn moved and AnMorgan Curry seconded the approval of the Special Project Team Projects. All in favor, motion carried unanimously

e) Update on Open Public Meetings Act - Darby

Even though the Arts Commission is an advisory board, the Open Public Meetings Act is still to be followed per City of Bellingham policy. Anytime there is a majority present and business is being discussed it is considered a meeting. That means the meeting is open to the public and minutes are taken. Sub-committees with less than a quorum report their findings to the commission as a whole at a public meeting. Sending out agendas and updates by e-mail are okay, but any discussion of business and decision making through e-mail does not comply with the intent of the act.

1. Agenda Items for December Arts Commission Meeting

- Mayor's Arts Award Application
- Renewal of Terms
- 2009 Action Plan

BELLINGHAM ARTS COMMISSION PUBLIC MEETING (S): ADJOURNED: 8:00PM

Minutes prepared by:


Fiona Starr, PCDD Staff

Minutes edited by:


Darby Galligan, PCDD Staff