

Bellingham Arts Commission (BAC) Minutes
Tuesday, December 2, 2008, 6:00 p.m.
Mayor's Board Room

Commission Members Present: Cathy Gersich, Pearl Yewell, Alex Wiley, Christopher Morrison, Shirley Erickson, Denise Snyder, Debbie McCunn, Curt Carpenter

Commission Members Absent: David Meyer, AnMorgan Curry

Staff Members Present: Darby Galligan, PCDD, Fiona Starr, PCDD, Leslie Bryson, Parks & Recreation.

Others Present: Greg Robinson; Cascade Joinery, Linda Gardner; Lucia Douglas Gallery, Dominique Zervas; Parks Board Representative.

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. Murals for the Pavilion at Boulevard Park – Leslie Bryson, Parks and Rec. Dept.

Leslie Bryson introduced Greg Robinson from Cascade Joinery and Linda Gardner from Lucia Douglas Gallery. She then turned the presentation over to Greg, the architect of the Pavilion. Greg has been working with Tom Wood who is creating two large oil paintings to go on either side of the Boulevard Park Pavilion stage. The larger painting depicting Boulevard Park will go on the stage side and the painting with the boat scene will be attached to the back. The value of the art is \$10,000 and is being paid for with private funds. Linda Gardner coordinated the fundraising and helped establish the monetary value of the artwork. Greg explained that Tom Wood was a natural choice because the structure is about music and community. Tom has created posters for the jazz alliance in the past and they envisioned similar artwork on the walls of the pavilion.

The oil paintings are on ¼ inch thick marine plywood and will take six months to dry. The unveiling will occur at the first summer concert during the dedication of the structure. Tom is also going to carve geometric designs into the frames and paint those too. There was a lot of discussion during the Parks Advisory Board meeting about how to protect these paintings. Any covering would be almost impossible to seal without having condensation and if you stand the glass off of the paintings to allow circulation there would be too much separation. Anti-graffiti products were researched and there are a number of coatings available specifically designed for murals in subways allowing markers and paint to wash off. Both of these paintings will be coated with an anti-graffiti seal. They will be lit at night; however, the lighting is geared more towards security and not for night time use. During the day the overhang of the stage roof will provide UV protection. Maintenance of public art is a high priority for the BAC and they agreed that there should be a maintenance plan written into the contract for this particular donation.

Denise Snyder moved and Curt Carpenter seconded to approve acceptance of the donation of the Boulevard Park Pavilion art work. All in favor, motion carried unanimously

4. Arts Commission Business

a) Approval of November 5, 2008 Minutes

Curt Carpenter moved and Cathy Gersich seconded the approval of the November 5th, 2008 minutes. All in favor, motion carried unanimously.

b) Mayor's Arts Awards Application – Darby

The commissioners agreed that questions are a great addition and will help produce better nominations. If possible, the packet should be condensed to 1 or 2 pages and also be available on-line to fill out. The section entitled "areas of consideration" should be removed and the font changed to be more easily read. Additional support materials should be optional, and examples given (i.e. resume, articles, letters of support, etc. Darby will send a revised version via email for review at the next meeting.

Cathy Gersich moved and Pearl Yewell seconded to accept the updated Mayor's Arts Award nomination form with the changes outlined. All in favor, motion carried unanimously

c) 2009 Action Plan - Darby

For item #9 Christopher Morrison has recently talked to The Pickford and also to Patricia Leach about the glass panels and both parties are interested in them. Christopher will follow-up on both leads and get back to everyone. **Staff will schedule a field trip for interested parties to view the panels.**

For item #11, other advertising ideas include public service announcements, creating postcards with lists of events to distribute, and monthly press releases. The BAC would like to discuss this strategy at the January meeting.

For item #13, language should be opened up to include wall mountings and other types of displays.

Curt Carpenter moved and Debbie McCunn seconded to accept the 2009 Arts Commission Action Plan as corrected. All in favor, motion carried unanimously,

d) Renewal of Terms – Darby

Terms for Christopher Morrison, Denise Snyder, Pearl Yewell, and Curt Carpenter are all up for renewal and all would like to continue service.

Shirley Erickson moved and Cathy Gersich seconded to approve the term renewals for Christopher Morrison, Denise Snyder, Pearl Yewell, and Curt Carpenter. All in favor, motion carried unanimously.

e) Election of Officers for 2009

Shirley Erickson moved and Cathy Gersich seconded to approve Alex Wiley as the Chair for 2009. All in favor, motion carried unanimously.

Shirley Erickson moved and Cathy Gersich seconded to approve Christopher Morrison as the Vice-Chair for 2009. All in favor, motion carried unanimously.

e) Grant Sub-Committee Recommendations - Darby

There were no questions or concerns about the recommendations made by the grant sub-committee.

Curt Carpenter moved and Pearl Yewell seconded to approve the Grant Sub-Committee funding recommendations. All in favor, motion carried unanimously.

The commissioners would like to revisit the grant application packet early in the 2009 and discuss possible limits for the number of times applicants can apply and adding language that talks about how new projects would get higher priority than older projects that have been previously funded

f) Update on Policy and Code Revisions - Darby

The executive team was unable to provide feedback in time for this meeting. Darby expects to receive this information before the next meeting

5 Agenda Items for January Arts Commission Meeting

- Grant Application revisions.
- Action plan – attach to the agenda
- Glass panels - Follow up report from Christopher Morrison

6. For the Good of the Order & Announcements


- The Sentinel sculpture is up at the corner of Bay and Holly. This area is still under construction; seating, pavers, and additional landscape features still need to be added.
- The WTA sculpture installation has been delayed slightly while the engineering is checked to make sure the moving parts will hold up in 80mph winds.
- Ten artists from the most current EDGE program will be making their final presentation this Thursday at 7PM in the Whatcom Museum Rotunda Room.
- Curt gave an update on the Historic Preservation Commission.
 - The HPC has decided to nominate the buildings on the former GP site including the Granary to the local historic registry. Ultimately the Port of Bellingham as the property owner has to sign off on the application.
 - The new Mount Baker Theatre marquee panels were approved at the last meeting.
- There is a Public opening next Wednesday from 3:30PM to 5:30PM at Mount Baker Theatre

BELLINGHAM ARTS COMMISSION PUBLIC MEETING (S): ADJOURNED: 7:50PM

Minutes prepared by:


Fiona Starr, PCDD Staff

Minutes edited by:


Darby Galligan, PCDD Staff