

Bellingham Arts Commission (BAC) Minutes
Tuesday, January 6, 2009, 6:00 p.m.
Mayor's Board Room

Commission Members Present: Alex Wiley, Christopher Morrison, Cathy Gersich , Curt Carpenter, Denise Snyder, AnMorgan Curry

Commission Members Absent: Debbie McCunn, Shirley Erickson, David Meyer, Pearl Yewell

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

Others Present: Jenni Cottrell, Dominique Zervas, Sheryl Davis, Allied Arts

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. Introductions and Public Comment

Sheryl Davis from Allied Arts announced Arts Advocacy Day on February 3, 2009 in Olympia. A bus has been arranged to take all interested parties to Olympia and times have been scheduled to meet with key legislative staff to discuss the importance of continued support for the arts in Washington State and local jurisdictions. Some of the Arts Commissioners are interested in attending this event. It was agreed the February 3, 2009 Arts Commission meeting will be rescheduled for February 10, 2009.

3. Presentations

There were no presentations scheduled.

4. Arts Commission Business

a) Approval of December 2, 2008 Minutes

Dominique said she is listed as present but was not at the December meeting.

Denise Snyder moved and Curt Carpenter seconded the approval of the December 2, 2008 minutes with the minor amendment. All in favor, motion carried unanimously.

b) Sub Committee Assignments

Alex asked to be removed from both the grants subcommittee and the special projects subcommittee. All other Commissioners will remain on their current committee.

a) Sentinel Discussion

Due to the publicity surrounding the new sculpture, Sentinel, Alex wanted to take an opportunity to clarify some facts regarding the selection process. She has heard many comments regarding the City not hiring a local artist. The primary reason a local artist was not selected to create the artwork was due to the fact that a local artist was not on any of the design teams that submitted bids for this project, in fact, no local team applied. This project required a team of individuals with experience in streetscape design, including an artist with this type of experience, and no local design firm submitted an application. Alex said the Bellingham Herald article omitted these facts. Alex said the City is prohibited by State Law in denying a contract based upon a person's residence. She said Seattle is not Chicago or Los Angeles. Seattle is considered local by many western Washington jurisdictions for contract issuance.

Alex wanted to re-iterate that other committees participated in this project. The City hired Project for Public Spaces to host a two day workshop that allowed City staff, City administration Volunteer Boards (including the Arts Commission) and neighborhood representatives to explore the various possibilities for public spaces in downtown. The City then held several public workshops to discuss what the community's likes and dislikes about the Arts District and what they would like to see done in the future. A Streetscape Design Committee was formed to review the Bay/Holly project and other projects in the Arts District. Many business owners, property owners, arts organizations and other stakeholders were involved as well. The Arts Commission was one of the last groups to view the streetscape plan and make recommendations on the aesthetics of the artwork and streetscape. Alex continued by clarifying the artist for this project was employed by and paid for by Nakano and Associates (the design team) that won the bid for the Arts District and Bay/Holly project. There was a conversation about public complaints regarding not being noticed of a public meeting. Alex said all public meetings are published. Denise said it might have been nice if there was a piece selected that represented Bellingham more. AnMorgan said the artist, Ellen Sollod, listened to a lot of people and took that information to create the artwork. Alex mentioned the other issue that has come up a lot regarding this artwork is the expense. AnMorgan said this project was in the works long before the collapse of the economy. AnMorgan suggested the BAC uses the kiosks downtown to post the Arts Commission's activities and other public upcoming meetings. The Commission moved to the next agenda item.

c) Advertising Plan

The Arts Commission has expressed interest in furthering their publicity and advertising. Some suggestions were:

- Kiosks
- Create a handout that is easy to give to people listing accomplishments and upcoming activities
- Upgrade the website
- Do more event specific advertising
- Use more of the local publications such as NW Entertainment News, Cascadia Weekly

Shannon is going to look into costs of publishing information and begin work on a handout that outlines all the Commission's activities. Additionally, she is going to speak to the departments communications coordinator to get other ideas.

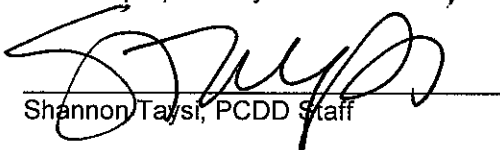
Agenda Items for February Arts Commission Meeting

City Hall Rotating Art Show Call for Art
Whatcom Creek Salmon Art Trail
Fountain Plaza

5. For the Good of the Order & Announcements

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

Minutes prepared by:


Shannon Taysi, PCDD Staff

Minutes edited by:


Darby Galligan/PCDD Staff