

Bellingham Arts Commission (BAC) Minutes
Tuesday, March 31, 2009, 6:00 p.m.
Mayor's Board Room

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

Commission Members Absent: Debbie McCunn

Staff Members Present: Shannon Taysi, PCDD

Others Present: Jenni Cottrell, Big Rock; Dominique Zervas, Parks Board

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. Introductions and Public Comment

Johnny Graines introduced himself and is attending the meeting tonight because he is interested in the arts.

3. Presentations

There were no presentations scheduled.

4. Arts Commission Business

- a) Approval of March 3, 2009 Minutes

Curt Carpenter moved and Cathy Gersich seconded the approval of the minutes from March 3, 2009. All in favor, motion carried unanimously.

- b) Mayor's Arts Awards Subcommittee Recommendations

Shirley Erickson gave a brief summary of all of the nominees for the Mayor's Arts Awards. The subcommittee is recommending approving all the applications. Shirley said the one application the committee was unfamiliar with was the Faces of Bellingham project. She asked if any other Commissioners had more details about this project. Alex gave a brief summary and said this project is was a great project that involved many community members. The Commission agreed this project should be included. Dominique Zervas asked if this information was public. Shirley said the fact they will be forwarding their recommendation to the Mayor for approval is public but tonight's recommendations don't mean these people will be ultimately awarded. The Mayor will make final decision on the awardees.

Shirley Erickson moved to approve and Christopher Morrison seconded the approval of the subcommittee's recommendation for Mayor's Arts Awards. All in favor, motion carried unanimously.

- c) Membership Subcommittee Recommendations

Denise Snyder said the membership subcommittee met and interview four candidates, Jo Morgan, Trish Harding, Marisa Papetti and Becky Hutchins. The subcommittee is recommending Jo Morgan and Trish

Harding as new members. Denise gave an overview of each candidate's strengths. She indicated that both Becky and Marisa would be good candidates in the future.

Denise Snyder moved and Cathy Gersich seconded the approval to recommend both Jo Morgan and Trish Harding to the Mayor for new membership. All in favor, motion carried unanimously.

d) Old Business

It was felt by some Commissioners that after the last meeting and there needs to be more discussion about the selection of public artwork. Christopher Morrison stated there needs to be a process. Shannon Taysi indicated there is a process already which is outlined in the Commission's newly adopted policies and procedures. In regards to the totem proposal presented at the March 3rd meeting, there was concern the Whatcom Creek Art Trail artwork is being assigned to artists to create and the process isn't being followed. Shannon said anyone can propose to create artwork for public property. The Commission's role is to determine if the artwork fits the criteria and if they want to recommend the artwork become part of the public collection. This includes donated pieces. There was a lengthy discussion about the selection process and how the Commission should look at selecting pieces in the future. Shannon offered to create a checklist from the policy and procedures criteria so it is easily assessable during meetings when the Commission is reviewing pieces of artwork. It was mentioned that currently the collection the City currently owns is in dire need of maintenance, repair and possibly removal of some pieces. There was a discussion regarding how the City is going to be able to pay for maintenance. Pearl Yewell asked if donations could be accepted to establish a maintenance fund. Shannon said she didn't know the specifics regarding establishing a separate maintenance account but will discuss with Tara Sundin. There was a discussion regarding prioritizing maintenance for artwork and the possibility of not accepting new artwork until a maintenance plan has been implemented. Shannon suggested this topic be addressed in detail at the May meeting. She will invite Tara to attend the meeting.

5. For the Good of the Order & Announcements

Big Rock

Jenny announced that the Big Rock show has 8 pieces. She announced there will be a reception on Mother's Day at 11am prior to the show opening. If the Arts Commissions are interested in attending the reception please RSVP to rapoza@comcast.net.

Jenny said the Big Rock committee would like to remove the Lipchitziana by Sebastian. They would like to have it removed and the paint redone. Shannon said prior to removal the Commission needs to discuss where it will be stored and how the repair will be paid for. This is a good example of needing to prioritize maintenance of artwork.

Shirley wanted to make a motion in support of repairing this piece of art.

Shirley Erickson moved and Denise Snyder seconded the approval to investigate the cost for preservation of this piece of artwork. All in favor, motion carried unanimously.

Other

Shannon gave updates on:

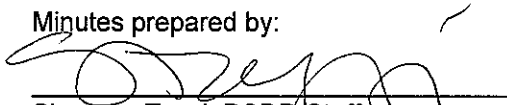
- WTA sculpture will be installed hopefully in May.
- The code changes that impact the Bellingham Arts Commission were approved by council and should be finalized by the end of April.
- Darby met with Felix Solomon and Public Works to discuss in more detail the specifics regarding his artwork for the Whatcom Creek Trail Art project.

Shannon also mentioned that the "Stand Up Van" had been damaged recently and the artists will be removing it. She wanted to know if the Commission wanted to encourage the artists to reinstall the artwork. The Commission would be increasing the overall cost of Velocity to continue the display were the van returned due to transportation and reinsurance expenses. The Commissioners agreed that incurring that expense at this time wasn't reasonable given the limited amount of funds available for the remainder of 2009. The artists were comfortable not reinstalling the artwork for the remainder of the term of the show.

Shirley mentioned the Recycled Art and Fashion Show will be occurring in April.

BELLINGHAM ARTS COMMISSION PUBLIC MEETING (S): ADJOURNED: 8:25PM

Minutes prepared by:



Shannon Taysi, PCDD Staff