

**Bellingham Arts Commission (BAC) Minutes**  
**Tuesday, February 2, 2010, 6:00 p.m.**  
**Mayor's Board Room**

**Commission Members Present:** Alex Wiley, Pearl Yewell, Christopher Morrison, AnMorgan Curry, Denise Snyder, Debbie McCunn, Trish Harding, Marisa Papetti, Jeni Cotrell, Jennifer Newman

**Commission Members Absent:** Shirley Erickson

**Staff Members Present:** Darby Galligan, Fiona Starr - PCDD, Janice Keller, Mayor's Office,

**Others Present:** Dominique Zervas, Luther Allen, Chair of Sue Boynton Poetry, Tom Jay, Wendy Scherrer

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

### **2. Introductions and Public Comment**

No Public Comment taken

### **3. Presentations**

a) Lipchitziana Update/Sebastian Exhibit – Janice Keller/COB presented

- **Sebastian**

Janice presented the current placement plan for the Sebastian sculptures. The idea is to be able to see at least one other sculpture when standing at any given piece. She asked to be contacted via e-mail with any concerns or questions that might arise after this meeting. The BAC moved and approved the preliminary placement plan to move forward, with details to be worked out with the BAC Chair.

- **Lipchitziana**

The BAC moved and recommended not re-painting Lipschitziana as they believe it has a good quality finish and will be durable in the outside elements. They BAC also moved and approved to not relocate Lipchitziana during the international show. The main reason behind their decision is to draw visitors from the show downtown up to Big Rock Garden.

b) Sue C Boynton poetry contest – Luther Allen presented.

Last year BAC granted \$2000 to the Sue C Boynton Poetry Contest. The money goes to certificates, plaques, and judges' stipends. There were approximately 250 entries and 25 winners. There is no funding for the BAC to support the poetry contest this year, but it will still be moving forward. This year's awards ceremony will be on May 12 with the location to be determined. Submissions will be accepted March 1<sup>st</sup> – April 7<sup>th</sup> 2010. There will be a fundraising dinner on March 17<sup>th</sup> catered by Ciao Thyme.

Ideas for future poetry projects include:

- Poet Laureate for the City.
- Poetry plaques in alleys, on buildings – incorporate as part of Bellingham art.

c) Whatcom Creek Salmon Art Trail update – Wendy Scherrer presented

Native Plant teaching trails

- Parks Advisory Board approved replacement of existing signs
- They are currently raising money for 25 signs; art provided by Whatcom Middle School students
- These new signs will include common, scientific, Nooksack and Lummi names of plants

Felix Solomon piece

- There are on-going fundraising efforts to purchase “It’s Mine” Coast Salish Pole for Maritime Heritage Park by Lummi Carver, Felix Solomon
- They are aiming for this to be completed by next year and are working with Parks about engineering the base. BAC voted previously to approve the preliminary concept. Wendy will bring a final proposal forward for BAC review.

Tom Jay – artist, author, bronze founder, sculpture

- Created large, bronze bell for sculptor Ann Morris, who suggested donation to City
- The bell’s surface depicts salmon life cycle – with writing on lip, “the simplest wisdom is to follow the sea-bright salmon home”
- Bells are symbolic of community’s heart, used as tools of communication, and to highlight peak life moments – e.g. birth, death, marriage, war
- Proposed as part of Salmon Art Trail – anticipated completion of installation by fall

***MOTION TO APPROVE PRELIMINARY CONCEPT OF THE WATERSHED BELL, APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.***

Chris Moench has proposed to create a brass prayer wheel – needs to come forward for final approval  
Tony Angell - Proposed big bronze salmon and eagle, but is asking \$95K. They are in contact with him about an alternate piece in perhaps \$5-10K range.

**4. Arts Commission Business**

- a. Approval of January 5, 2010 Minutes

***MOTION TO APPROVE, UNANIMOUSLY.***

- b. Mayor’s Arts Awards – Alex

The BAC moved an approved to recommend 18 Mayor’s Arts Awards nominations to the Mayor: There was some discussion about the nominations, the purpose of the event, and the number of nominees and how that might affect the length of the award ceremony. This year’s Awards Ceremony will be on March 24<sup>th</sup>, in the Walton Theatre (Mount Baker)

***MOTION TO APPROVE, UNANIMOUSLY.***

- c. Budget and Action Plan - Darby Galligan/COB

Budget as proposed: \$14k for maintenance, \$4k miscellaneous. \$20k total  
Action Plan – Primarily maintenance and planning work this year.

***MOTION TO APPROVE, UNANIMOUSLY.***

d. City Hall Sculpture Show – Fiona Starr/COB

The call for art will go out this week for a second show starting in April of this year and going through April 2011. There will be six eight-week rotations.

**4. Agenda Items for next Arts Commission Meeting – Mar. 2**

Big Rock – Mothers' Day  
Discussion of the artwork collection

**4. For the Good of the Order & Announcements**

- a. Dominique noted that the Parks Advisory Board made a recommendation regarding the accessibility of the City Hall Rotating Art Show.
- b. Other boards and commissions have a council member liaison, should the BAC have a City Council member assigned to BAC to lend some support?

**Meeting Adjourned 8:30PM**