

Bellingham Arts Commission (BAC) Minutes
Tuesday March 2, 2010, 6:00 PM
Mayor's Board Room

Commission members Present: Alex Wiley, Christopher Morrison, Jeni Cotrell, AnMorgan Curry, Shirley Erickson, Trish Harding, Debbie McCunn, Jennifer Newman, Marisa Papetti, Pearl Yewell,

Commission Members Absent: Denise Snyder

Staff Members Present: Darby Galligan, PCDD

Others Present: Dominique Zervas-Foley – Parks Board Liaison; Becky Hutchins, Big Rock Garden Committee; Katrin & Carly – Community Services Majors at WWU

1. Call to Order

Arts Commission meeting was called to order by Shirley Erickson, in the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair who arrived shortly after the meeting was called to order.

2. Introductions and Public Comment

Katrin and Carly are two students from WWU majoring in Community Services. They are doing a project on Art in Whatcom County and are attending the meeting to gather information only.

3. Presentations

a) St Joseph Hospital Art Show – March 22.

Darby Galligan presented information provided by Linda Gardner from St. Joseph's hospital (who was unable to attend the meeting) regarding the "Healing through Art" exhibit that will be held at St. Joseph's hospital through June 26. The BAC is invited to attend an opening reception; information will be forwarded via email.

b) 2010 Big Rock Garden Sculpture Invitational – Becky Hutchins

The Big Rock Garden committee is requesting \$800 from the BAC to support the 2010 sculpture show. There will not be a jury this year. Parks Department funding has been cut. Big Rock Committee would like to celebrate the improvements that have been made throughout the park and continue the show. The Blue Horse Gallery downtown will be hosting a complimentary show with the same group of artists.

Alex Wiley expressed some concern regarding setting a precedent for supporting the show in future years. Noted that if approved this is a stop-gap measure for this year.

Becky noted that the budget being presented for this year is not reflective of past years, and that it has been pared down to reflect limited funds. She also said that the Parks Department will be providing in-kind support in the form of transportation to and from Bloedel Donovan park.

AnMorgan asked whether this is on target with the BAC mission. Would like the contributions to go the artists/musicians participating.

CHRISTOPHER MORRISON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FUNDING REQUEST, WITH THE CONDITION THAT THE \$800 BE DEDICATED TOWARDS ARTIST STIPENDS AND THAT THE BAC RECEIVED RECOGNITION IN THE PRINT MATERIALS FOR THE DONATION.

APPROVED, S. ERICKSON AND J. COTRELL ABSTAINED.

4. Arts Commission Business

a. Approval of February 2, 2010 Minutes

AnMorgan noted that she abstained from the preliminary vote of approval of the Watershed Bell

MOTION TO APPROVE AS AMENDED, UNANIMOUSLY

b. Mayor's Arts Awards – Darby Galligan

Darby shared the Mayor's decision for winners of the 2009 arts awards. The awardees for 2010 are Linda Hughes (Blue Horse Gallery), Thor Myhre, Bob Ridgley/Terri Krantz (American Collectors Documentary), James Hardesty (Green Frog Tavern), Michelle Schutte/Django Bohren (Jinx Art Space), Helen Scholtz (Children's Craft Fair), Bellingham/Whatcom PFD (Arts District projects), Bellingham Festival of Music, and Edlen Siddle/Alice Clark (Sunnyland Backyard Art Stomp). A press release will be sent out next week.

c. Discussion of Public Artwork Collection – Jennifer Newman / AnMorgan Curry

Jennifer and AnMorgan put together a preliminary list of questions to help define the City's public artwork collection.

The discussion branched out to other general Arts Commission issues. Some commissioners expressed concern about the pressure of making a decision in front of someone who is presenting. There was an interest in defining what "Preliminary Design Review Approval" means for a potential donor (ie. does not imply the piece will be accepted into the permanent collection). Darby Galligan stated that the vote does give the artist that impression.

AnMorgan expressed a desire to define the BAC's focus for 2 years (ie. on neighborhoods).

There was discussion of the Salmon Art Trail and concern about reaching a point of saturation. A question of how to support the theme without being literally all about fish; how to make this theme fresh and new. Some commissioners expressed an interest in walking the site to ID areas that would be appropriate for new sculpture.

The Commission discussed an interest in exploring opportunities to re-site pieces that might fit together better and enhance the site, and perhaps extend the artwork to other parts of the City.

The Commission members would like to continue this discussion. Darby will type up notes and bring them to the next meeting.

5. Agenda Items for next Arts Commission Meeting – May 4th

April meeting cancelled – lack of agenda items, Darby Galligan absent

The BAC agreed that it is okay to send future agenda's via email. Packets will continue to be sent to those who don't have email access. Darby will bring a few copies to the meeting.

6. For the Good of the Order & Announcements

- a. Midsummer Night fundraiser at Big Rock
- b. March 10: How to Use Sculpture
- c. Bay Street Village at artwalk
- d. Parks Board: No meeting this month

Meeting Adjourned