

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

Commission members Present: Alex Wiley, Debbie McCunn, Marisa Papetti, Denise Snyder, Christopher Morrision, Jeni Cotrell, Jennifer Newman

Commission Members Absent: Trish Harding, AnMorgan Curry, Shirley Erickson, Pearl Yewell,
Staff Members Present: Darby Galligan, PCDD, Shannon Taysi, PCDD,

Others Present: Dominique Zervas-Foley – Parks Board Liaison, Marvin Harris, Parks and Recreation, Ann Morris, Artist, Tom Jay, Artist, Chris Moench, Artist, Wendy Scherrer

1. Call to Order

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

2. Introductions and Public Comment

Wendy Scherrer announced there will be a brown bag lunch on July 29, 2010 at 12:30 at the Whatcom Museum regarding the Salmon Art Trail. She also mentioned grant opportunities she is pursuing.

3. Presentations

a) Memorial Bench – Marvin Harris, Parks and Recreation

The Parks Department is proposing to install a memorial bench at the skate park adjacent to Civic Stadium. The bench is being donated to the City by Keegan Johnson's family and friends. Keegan Johnson was an avid skater who has passed away. Marvin Harris explained typically memorial benches are not reviewed by the BAC but since the bench being proposed has artwork engraved on the seat he is bringing it forward. It will be made from Olivine and have a modest sized design engraved in the seat of the bench. Alex asked who the artist was. Marvin said it was designed by a group of the deceased peers. Jeni asked the color of the design. Marvin said it will most likely be a black engraving. Alex asked how the bench was going to be paid for. Marvin said the family and friends raised \$6000-\$7000 to purchase the bench. He said the Parks Department will maintain the bench after it is installed. He added the size of the design on the bench will not be larger than 8 ½" by 11". There was a conversation about how the location of the bench was determined. Marvin said they have compiled a list of potential sites for benches and donors are able to pick a location based upon the list. This bench is appropriate for this site considering that the bench will be in memory of someone who enjoyed to skate.

Denise Snyder moved and Debbie McCunn seconded the approval of the artwork on the bench as long as the size is appropriate. All in favor, motion carried unanimously.

b) Watershed Bell – Tom Jay / Ann Morris, Artists

This agenda item is returning for final approval from the Commission. Tom Jay and Ann Morris have come to answer any questions and to provide any final details regarding the bell. They are requesting the Commission pay \$200 for installation of the artwork. Darby pointed out the artwork will be installed on the trail right below the post office. She said there are no issues with building or shoreline permits. Tom mentioned that he is aiming to have the artwork installed no later than mid-October. He also suggested that mulch be laid around the base. Debbie asked about the bell ringer. Tom said Parks and Recreation would prefer to see the ringer inside the bell. He mentioned a couple of different methods for attaching the ringer inside the bell. He said he is considering a rubber mallet style ringer versus a metal ringer. He

said the longevity of a rubber mallet is approximately 10 to 15 years depending upon the treatment of the mallet.

Christopher Morrison moved and Marisa Papetti seconded the approval of accepting the artwork into the City's permanent sculpture collection. All in favor, motion carried unanimously.

Darby said the Commission should vote on the \$200 being requested for the installation of the artwork.

Jeni Cotrell moved and Marisa Papetti seconded the approval of \$200 being used to cover installation costs of the Watershed Bell.

c) Prayer Wheel – Chris Moench, Artist

The location of the Prayer Wheel has been finalized with Parks. The site will be dedicated to Liam Woods, one of the people who was killed in the pipeline explosion. Christopher Morrison asked what materials were going to be used for the base. Chris Moench said he is making it out of basalt with a concrete footing. Chris mentioned that he is hoping to have the artwork installed by late August/ early September.

Denise Snyder moved and Marisa Papetti seconded the approval to accept the artwork into the City's permanent sculpture collection. All in favor, motion carried unanimously.

Darby asked Wendy if there had been any discussion regarding a unified plaque design for the Salmon Art Trail. Wendy said not yet.

Arts Commission Business

a. Approval of May 4, 2010 Minutes

Marisa said she no longer works for Cascadia Weekly. The way the minutes are written it sounds as if she is still employed by them.

Debbie McCunn moved and Jeni Cotrell seconded the approval of the minutes with the appropriate edits. All in favor, motion carried unanimously.

b. Maintenance Update

Shannon said she was getting bids for the maintenance of "Amending Table for Talking". She currently has been working with Cascade Joinery. They said they could do the work for approximately \$4000.00. She will proceed to get additional bids but asked the Commissioners to please provide any names of organizations or people that could do the type of work necessary for the artwork. After review of the artwork, the Commission agreed it should be made a priority for maintenance this year. Shannon said at the next meeting final approval can be given to proceed with the maintenance.

6. Agenda Items for next Arts Commission Meeting

Final approval of the maintenance on “Amending Table for Talking”
Discussion on the direction of the Public Sculpture Collection

7. For the Good of the Order & Announcements

Meeting Adjourned