

Bellingham Arts Commission (BAC) Minutes
November 1, 2011, 6:30 PM
Mayor's Board Room

Commission members Present: Alex Wiley, Trish Harding, AnMorgan Curry, Jeni Cottrell, Shirley Erickson, Denise Snyder, Gabriel Miles, Mike Smith

Commission Members Absent: Christopher Morrison, Marisa Papetti

Staff Members Present: Tara Sundin, Fiona Starr, PCDD

1. Call to Order

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

2. Introductions and Public Comment

Alex introduced the two newly appointed Arts Commissioners. Mike Smith is an architect from Zervas Group Architects and Gabriel Miles is a sculptor and arts educator.

There were no public comments.

3. Presentations

R.A.R.E – Thor Myhre

There are several recycled art venues in Bellingham and Recycled Arts Resource Expo (R.A.R.E) is working to showcase all of them in a festival to take place April 20th – 22nd, 2012. The location has yet to be determined but possible places include Spark, Pickford, and or the Whatcom Museum. Currently there are at least 20 different organizations interested in participating. The goal is to have a highly entertaining event with an emphasis on education in sustainability.

Art & Economic Prosperity Study & Other Allied Arts Update – Kelly Hart, Allied Arts

Almost all the surveys for the Art & Economic Prosperity Study have been returned and interns and volunteers will help process the data received to document the significance of the arts in Bellingham. Kelly passed out a draft cut sheet titled "Art Means Business" highlighting how cultural resources add to our economy using the Creative Vitality Index.

My Downtown and 2D Call for Art Concept - Tara Sundin, PCDD

The first phase of My Downtown is underway and staff are gathering ideas and input from the community that will guide the focus on this downtown subarea plan. Tara updated the commissioners about the study area and when there might be an opportunity for them to be involved. The commissioners expressed interest in hosting a 2-D Exhibition show at City Hall during the legislative process in 2012. The call for art will go out with plenty of time for artists to create downtown themed pieces for this show.

4. Arts Commission Business

Ice Sculpture / Topiary Sculptures - Subcommittee

Denise presented preliminary ideas for events to connect Big Rock with the rest of our sculpture collection. One idea is to plan a flash mob of artists dressed in black with a piece of art to swap or raffle. Unfortunately Bellingham Cold Storage no longer produces the large chunks of ice needed for ice sculpture, and would need to look into other ice purchasing options if that idea goes forward. For the annual Mothers Day event at Big Rock there is an idea to invite poets to stand and talk along the pathways. Anita Boyle has been approached about participating and she is very interested. They would need about \$150 for a sound system. Denise will bring more concrete ideas to the next meeting.

On a side note Jeni Cotrell mentioned there are a few sculptures that may need to be moved because they are being affected adversely by the trees and other elements at Big Rock Garden. They include: Turtle, Natura, and Stabile, and there is a possibility to move these sculptures downtown.

Expired Terms

The terms for Christopher Morrison, Marisa Papetti and Denise Snyder are due to expire at the end of this year.

Shirley Erickson moved and AnMorgan Curry seconded to recommend reappointing Denise Snyder, Christopher Morrison and Marisa Papetti to another term on the Arts Commission. All in favor, motion carried unanimously.

2012 Preliminary Action Plan Discussion

- Small event
- Continued examination of the collection
- Incorporation of Big Rock

Parks Board Update

There was no Parks Board update.

Meeting Adjourned