

**ARTS COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
May 23, 2023  
City Hall, Conference Room #6**

**Attendees:** Chairman Mary Lee Ryba, Vice Chairman Jennifer Drake, Commissioner John Bruning, Commissioner Abby Light, Commissioner Alesa Momerak, Commissioner Bev Moss, Commissioner Lindsey Sichelstiel, Student Representative Adeline Smith, Commissioner Kate Walker, City Council Liaison Amy Evans, City Administrator Troy Tymesen, City Accountant Stephanie Padilla, Executive Assistant Sherrie Badertscher.

**Guest:** CdA Library Director Michael Priest

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Ryba called the meeting to order.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION:** There were none.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MOTION:** Motion by Commissioner Moss, seconded by Commissioner Momerak, to approve the April 25, 2023, minutes. **Motion carried.**

**APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT: MOTION:** Motion by Commissioner Moss, seconded by Commissioner Bruning, to approve the April 2023, Financial Reports. **Motion carried.**

**COMMISSIONER/STAFF COMMENTS:** Vice Chairman Drake said she had received a phone call from Police Chief Lee White regarding an art piece located on the entrance to the Police Station. She said the Police Department is renovating the building and requested the art piece be moved to another location.

**LIBRARY LOWER-LEVEL ENTRANCE ART PROJECT:** Library Director Michael Priest said the Library had received a donation of \$10,000, which may increase to \$20,000 for the right project, to improve the Children's Library. He said they had explored several ideas and landed on an entrance project to add visual interest for the Children's Library. He mentioned they had done a call to artists and were not able to finalize a contract. He said most recently the Children's Librarian's daughter had drawn up a whimsical design which included a book, reading lamp, and owl. He said the art would need to be elevated and hang above the entrance. He noted that they were hoping for assistance with the design, fabrication, and installation of their design principle. He said assistance from the Commission was requested for running a new call to artists, and that the art piece would be added to the City's public art inventory for future maintenance needs. Councilmember Evans asked if a selection committee would be needed as well, with Mr. Priest responding that would be best. Chairman Ryba said it sounded like a good project and suggested a subcommittee be established to assist the Library with the project. Mr. Tymesen suggested working with a City building official as well in order to ensure the building could support the proposed art design concept. Vice Chairman Drake and Commissioners Walker and Sichelstiel volunteered for the subcommittee.

**MOTION:** Motion by Commissioner Drake, seconded by Commissioner Walker, to create a Library Lower-Entrance Art Project Subcommittee. **Motion Carried.**

**APPROVAL OF FUNDING FOR MARKETING MATERIALS FOR THE AUDIO GUIDE:** Commissioner Bruning said they were ready to launch the guide and were working on a brochure to advertise the app. He said they had scheduled a ribbon cutting ceremony with Mayor Hammond on June 22, at 10:00 am near the the entrance to McEuen Park (Front Ave/4<sup>th</sup> St). He mentioned they were planning a scavenger hunt using the app. He said the subcommittee would be meeting with different entities to showcase the app and that \$300.00 was needed to purchase 2500 rack cards and a small amount for the ribbon cutting ceremony. Chairman Ryba mentioned Commissioner Linder would be creating the rack cards. Commissioner Bruning extended his thanks to City staff Sherrie and Stephanie for all their assistance with the project.

**MOTION:** Motion by Commissioner Bruning, seconded by Commissioner Drake, to approve funding in the amount of \$300.00 to print 2500 rack cards and for the ribbon cutting ceremony. **Motion Carried.**

**RECOMMENDATION OF APPOINTMENT TO THE ARTS COMMISSION:** Vice Chairman Drake said she and Councilmember Evans had met with two (2) very qualified applicants and noted there had originally been three (3) applicants, with one withdrawing the day of the interviews. She said the two (2) they met with were great candidates and at this time would like to put forth one for recommended appointment and the remaining applicant would be encouraged to volunteer for subcommittee assignments as they were presented. She said she and Councilmember Evans would like to recommend Summer Ward for appointment to the commission. She said Ms. Ward had experience with art programs and had worked for the City of Roanoke's Parks and Recreation Department where she oversaw art calls and programs.

**MOTION:** Motion by Commissioner Moss, seconded by Commissioner Sichelstiel, to recommend the appointment of Summer Ward to the Arts Commission. **Motion carried.**

**ARTCURRENTS PROGRAM:** Chairman Ryba said the subcommittee had met earlier this month to discuss the ArtCurrents Program, and noted there were four (4) pieces subject to renewal, and nine (9) pieces whose contracts would be ending in September and there would be costs associated with the uninstalls. She said the commission had been contacted by artist Ken Turner who offered to sale his art piece "Timeline Theory Reflections" to the commission for \$1000. She said Mr. Turner said it was getting more difficult to travel from Seattle in order to remove the art piece. Chairman Ryba noted artist placed a lot of time and work into their pieces and she liked Mr. Turner's sculpture and thought it would make a good addition to the City's collection.

**MOTION:** Motion by Commissioner Sichelstiel, seconded by Commissioner Momerak, to approve the purchase of "*Timeline Theory Reflections*" in the amount of \$1000.00. **Motion Carried.**

Chairman Ryba said with the Arts Commission's budget reduced, the subcommittee had reviewed the ArtCurrents program and had adjusted the call to reflect a priority of selling the pieces, focusing on art which centered on themes or interpretations of the Northwest, and capped the selling price at \$15,000. She said they would be developing a marketing plan for the ArtCurrents Program. She mentioned she had spoken with artist Dale Young who informed her he had spent 500 hours, and \$5,000 in materials, and another \$2,000 on the bench platform for his sculpture "Gaia" and would consider selling it to the City for \$30,000. She said he was also open to extending his Display Agreement for another year or two. Councilmember Evans noted it was a great piece and good fit for the location. Commissioner Walker said it was unique and a great piece. Commissioner Sichelstiel mentioned the cost of moving the piece had come up during the subcommittee meeting and that the piece required no maintenance. Vice Chairman Ryba noted she would like to invite Mr. Young and other local artist to future commission meetings in order to learn more about their art.

**MOTION:** Motion by Commissioner Light, seconded by Commissioner Sichelstiel, to add "**Gaia**" to the current cycle (up to 2-year agreement) of ArtCurrents. **Motion Carried.**

#### **SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES:**

Mayor's Awards in the Arts: Chairman Ryba said the subcommittee would be meeting in June, and would be seeking other sponsorship opportunities to cover the costs of the event. She noted the piano rental had added a great benefit to last year's event but had cost \$700 and greatly impacted the budget. She asked commissioners if they would assist with trying to find sponsorships and noted one could be for \$750 to pay for the rental of the piano.

ArtCurrents: Chairman Ryba said the call to artist was published on May 8, and the deadline to submit application through Café was July 3. She said the selection committee would meet on July 10, present their selections to the Arts Commission on July 25, and the selections would be presented to Council on August 15. Art would be due and installation would take place the first week of October.

Audio Guide: Commissioner Bruning said to Save the date of June 22, 10:00 am. for the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Performing Arts: Chairman Ryba noted there were many upcoming events such as CDA Summer Theater's Footloose, Sound of Music, and Pride n Prejudice performances at the NIC Schuler Performing Arts Center. She said Aspire would be presenting Singin in the Rain in October. She noted the Arts Commission grant funds had funded Inland Northwest Opera's new mobile opera truck and they had two performances planned this summer.

Community Arts: Commissioner Light said there were many summer art programs going on throughout the community and the Block party was being held at Emerge next month. She said Art and Culture Alliance's speakeasy fundraiser was on Thursday.

East Sherman Arch: On-Hold

Budget: Mr. Tymesen said the Arts Commission's budget for FY 23/24 would be discussed with Council in late June, with final approval in September. He thanked Commissioners for all their volunteer hours and all they did for the City. He suggested the draft budget be added to next month's agenda -for approval.

Advanced Wastewater Treatment Facility Art Project: Commissioner Momerak said she the subcommittee met with Mike Becker who wrote the technical details for the call. She noted the subcommittee would be meeting again to finalize the details and planned to publish the call to artist in August.

DTA Winter Lights Festival: Drake said they would be meeting soon as the DTA board had recently held their meeting and elected subcommittee members for their committees.

Ped/Bike Brochures: Commissioner Moss said if volunteers had any brochures left over to deliver them to the City's Parks and Recreation Department or the Visitors Center. She said they would investigate purchasing new racks for the brochures next year. She also asked those who had helped with distribution to please remember to jot down the date the brochures were delivered and if there were any issues at any of the locations and get the spreadsheet back to her.

**MOTION:** Motion by Commissioner Momerak, seconded by Commissioner Moss, to adjourn the meeting. **Motion carried.**

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting ended at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Sherrie L. Badertscher  
Executive Assistant