

ARTS COMMISSION MINUTES
February 28, 2017

Attendees: Jennifer Drake, Tina Johnson, John Bruning, Deanna Goodlander, ~~Trudy Elliott~~, Christina Hull, ~~David Groth~~, Mark Johnstone, ~~Amy Evans~~, Sam Taylor, Roberta Larsen, Hannah Daniels, Sydney Morrison, Ali Shute, Amy Ferguson

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Drake called the meeting to order.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION: There were none.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS: There were none.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were none.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MOTION by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Johnstone, to approve the January 24, 2017 minutes. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT: MOTION by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Johnstone , to approve the January, 2017 financial statement.

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Hull asked about a \$789.00 expense out of Education and Training in January. Mr. Taylor confirmed that it was a payment to Emerge.

Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Larsen said that she left a message for Ken Spiering for an update on the Riverstone project, but hadn't heard back from him. Chairman Drake suggested that she check back with him again before the next meeting, if possible. Mr. Taylor said that Mr. Spiering did receive an initial stipend and his contract has time and materials intervals so that Mr. Spiering has enough money to continue with the piece. Mr. Taylor noted that the vast majority of the work will start in June because of teaching issues.

Commissioner Johnstone said that he would like to review the contract. He noted that typically in contracts there is some money held back at the end to make sure that the artists provide plans and a materials list in the event of repairs that might be needed. Chairman Drake said that they have talked about a 10% contingency as part of the policy review, but it hasn't been formalized yet.

Chairman Drake said that it has been brought to her attention that a former commissioner is making statements that there are conflicts of interest on the commission. She discussed what a conflict of interest is as stated in the Arts policy. Chairman Drake noted that her membership on the Emerge Board of Directors was discussed with the legal department and if there are any

funding requests, she will recuse herself. She encouraged the commission members to ask questions if they have any concerns about a possible conflict of interest.

STAFF COMMENTS:

There were none.

PRESENTATION – “OUT OF THE SHADOWS” THEATRE:

Chairman Drake will check with the presenter, Wendy Carroll (who was not in attendance) to see if there was a miscommunication. She reminded the commission that the “Out of the Shadows Theatre” features persons with disabilities and last year there was a standing room only crowd. Chairman Drake will check with Ms. Carroll to see if she wants to present at the meeting next month.

“RAINBOW” ARCH UPDATE:

Mr. Taylor said that they have contracted with an electrician to check on the arch. The electrician has done some initial work and was provided with information regarding the technology used. The electrician is trying to determine where the problem is and is coordinating with the Parks Department to get into the panel. Mr. Taylor will be checking in with him regularly. Commissioner Larsen asked about the issue of rusting bolts and whether it has been taken care of. Mr. Taylor responded not that he is aware of but through the electrician’s review, he will determine what issues need to be rectified. Commissioner Goodlander noted that she was on the selection committee for the arch and when the artist originally presented it to them, the cross pieces were supposed to be lighted. Chairman Drake said that they looked into LED lighting, but the estimate was about \$50,000 and the lights would not have an indefinite life span.

COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

Chairman Drake said that the Applicant Review subcommittee interviewed for two vacancies and is recommending the appointment of Greg Lewis and Kristen Lahner. Mr. Lewis recently presented to the commission regarding “busking,” and is interested in serving on the ArtCurrents and Performing Arts subcommittees. Kristen Lahner is currently serving on the Library Board and does a lot of work in the community. Chairman Drake explained that if the commission approves the appointments, they will be forwarded on to the mayor and council for approval.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Larsen, seconded by Commissioner Hull, to recommend the appointment of Greg Lewis and Kristen Lahner to the Arts Commission. Motion carried.

MID TOWN MURAL/WALL ART REQUEST:

Mr. Taylor said that Mayor Widmyer has been looking at the midtown area from an Ignite CDA perspective, knowing that there are only about 5 years left in the Lake District. There are properties that Ignite owns that might be good for space activation. Mr. Taylor reviewed the vacant lot at 818 N. 4th Street and noted that the workforce housing project is no longer active and Ignite is still looking at what to do with the building and lot. Mr. Taylor noted that the Parks Department will be putting in some parking spaces, and will seed and water the lot, and possibly provide some benches and seating. The mayor thought it might be nice to have a couple of murals on the two buildings and is interested in trying to complete the project as quickly as

possible. Mr. Taylor noted that they would need permission from The Housing Company for one of the buildings, and Ignite CDA for the other building. He also explained and one or both of the buildings could go away at some point in the future. The mayor suggested that art could be installed on the wall and removed if the buildings go away. Mr. Taylor suggested up to \$20,000 for each wall. Chairman Drake said that if they know that it is for an undetermined length of time, they could justify spending less money, but she is sure there would be plenty of artists that would still be happy to do it. Discussion ensued regarding removable art being a more expensive option. Chairman Drake reminded the commission that they had talked a couple of years ago about a professional-style graffiti wall where there would be an ever changing mural done by professional graffiti artists – almost like performance art where people could sit and watch the artists.

Commissioner Goodlander said that she thinks that Ignite is going to look very seriously at doing something with their property and she would hate to see the commission spend a lot of money on it. She expressed concern that if the mural art is done and benches and grass, etc. that people will want to make it a public park, which was never the goal of Ignite. Ignite's goal was to develop the property to generate activity in mid-town and for that reason she feels that a discussion needs to be held by the Ignite board before there is any decision made. Mr. Taylor explained that he is trying to get a recommendation from the Arts Commission so that they can inform Ignite and make a decision.

Commissioner Hull said that she would love to see some sort of very short contract with some of the language used for the mural call. Mr. Taylor asked how much contract management would cost. Chairman Drake said probably not more than \$2,000 for a six month period between April and October. Commissioner Shute mentioned the Spokane underpass mural project where art students created the art and the person overseeing the art was the instructor of the class.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Larsen, seconded by Commissioner Shute, that the Arts Commission propose graffiti-style art pieces on the two building walls as presented, with professional oversight.

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Goodlander said that she will vote no as she believes that even though it is a fun idea, it won't be permanent, and sometimes when you put something like that in place it makes it difficult to move forward with the property because people become attached to it. She noted the public's attachment to the pocket park downtown, which does not belong to the city and could potentially go away, even though it has become a fixture downtown. If the area is developed, there could be some challenges with moving forward on the project. Commissioner Shute said that they could make it clear to the public that the murals are temporary. Mr. Taylor suggested putting up a sign regarding the intention of the project and that it is temporary. Chairman Drake said that if the project is successful, there are plenty of other city-owned spaces where they could do it. She would like to see it move forward and go to Ignite to see what they say.

Motion carried with Commissioner Goodlander voting no.

Commissioner Larsen asked what is happening in mid-town as far as the workforce housing. Mr. Taylor said that it is his understanding that the mid-town residents were not in favor of the project and he is not sure where they are at now.

REVIEW OF SUBCOMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS/SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES:

ArtCurrents:

No update. Chairman Drake said that when the two new commission members are added, they will probably go through and do a revision of the subcommittees and make sure that people are where they want to be. Mr. Taylor said that Commissioner Johnstone received a copy of the last call, so he is working on it. He also noted that based on their last experience with ArtCurrents where there was one piece that they ended up having to ship back, he is encouraging that the next call be more of a regional, rather than a national call, and to make sure that it is clear in the call that the artist is responsible for bringing the piece, installing it, and taking it away. Mr. Taylor also noted that the current ArtCurrents pieces are in place through September and the best time to do the call would be by June, and also commented that it needs to be clear in the call that the city does not maintain the pieces.

Riverstone Public Art:

Commissioner Larsen asked if there were any ArtCurrents pieces that the commission might want to purchase and put in Riverstone. Mr. Taylor said that he thinks it would be good to look at the budget and where the commission is at for this year and next year for purchase. He suggested a discussion at the next meeting about the potential purchase of another piece to put in Riverstone.

Commissioner Larsen said that the Riverstone people are very happy with the art piece that is being constructed.

Community Arts:

Commissioner Hull said that she would provide an update on Emerge during the budget discussion.

Mural Project:

Mr. Taylor said that the temperature needs to be consistently over 40 degrees in order for the artists to finish the mural. He will contact the artists to touch bases. Commissioner Hull noted that the artists just finished a big indoor mural in Spokane.

Art Policy Revision:

Chairman Drake said that the arts policy has been revised, and looks at expanding performing arts and other arts other than sculptural pieces, per council direction, and also a lot of the language was cleaned up. The draft revision will be finished by the next meeting and Chairman Drake will provide a copy to everyone for their review, and once approved by the commission, it will go forward to the council. She asked the commission members to keep in mind that if the policy is approved next month, it will potentially open up funding to more things.

Commissioner Johnstone said that he has been talking with the Idaho Commission on the Arts over the past few months about having a short symposium with a number of people from the state, and talking about bringing in trained local artists, and opening it up a little bit for performing artists. Chairman Drake commented that they also added a section in the draft art policy that there would be an annual period every year where people in the community could submit a proposal for performing arts, education in the arts, community programs, etc. They would send out an RFP to the various organizations and they would have a certain timeline to submit proposals that the commission could review during their budget process and choose which projects they could benefit the most.

Library Bike Racks:

Commissioner Goodlander said that the call has been partially written and she is waiting for information from the Trails Coordinator in order to finish it up. She noted that it is important to have bike racks that actually work and that people will use. The bike rack on the upper level will be 16 feet long, and the bike rack on the lower level will be about 12 feet. Commissioner Goodlander would like to make it a local call, rather than going outside of the area and feels that having somebody here that could help with maintenance is valuable.

ART FUND BUDGET REVIEW:

Mr. Taylor said that he thinks it is important to have more than one discussion on the budget. He presented a Powerpoint showing what was budgeted last year and the status of the projects. He noted that Ignite CDA is supportive, but wants to see the commission doing things.

Mr. Taylor noted that the balance of Ignite funds is quite large. He explained to Ignite that some of the funding does need to be held for the Seltice Way roundabouts.

Mr. Taylor reviewed the projects that are currently budgeted this fiscal year through September 30, 2017, including the electrical work on the Rainbow Arch, the Sherman Square and Trail Confluence murals, Riverstone, ArtCurrents, and Emerge. He also suggested that a subcommittee might want to go out and look at the art plaques to see what is needed and what might need repaired. The subcommittee might also want to look at standardization of the plaques. Chairman Drake suggested adding a plaques subcommittee to the review next month.

Mr. Taylor discussed the funds that are received each year from Ignite and what will happen when they sunset. He noted that at sunset they will try to continue to ensure that funding continues for public art. Mr. Taylor commented that once the urban renewal districts sunset, they may be able to look at other areas in the community to provide more diversity for public art.

Chairman Drake commented that it is incredibly unique that the commission has substantial funds for public art, and it is an incredible opportunity to affect future generations. She noted that other communities do not have the same opportunities.

Mr. Taylor said that he would like a subcommittee to do an audit of the art and review what needs to be done in regard to maintenance.

Commissioner Larsen brought up the subject of landscaping around the Chief Morris Antelope statue. Mr. Taylor said that the commission needs to keep having a discussion on that, and work with the Parks Department on what is feasible and other maintenance issues. Chairman Drake said they might want to add a line item to the maintenance fund for landscaping of the pieces. Commissioner Bruning will talk to the Parks Director regarding landscaping of the Chief Morris Antelope statue.

Commissioner Johnstone gave the commission a heads up that Ken Roberge will be making a presentation next month regarding creating sculptures along Government Way.

Commissioner Hull said that she loves the idea of buying ArtCurrents pieces and placing them. She would love to see the program presented in such a way to the commission so that they can see which artists are wanting to sell their pieces, and having the prices and pictures to review at a meeting. Chairman Drake also suggested putting together a subcommittee to pick some pieces and make a presentation to the commission. Commissioners Hull and Larsen, and Chairman Drake will serve on the subcommittee.

Commissioner Goodlander said that the Government Way corridor would be a great location for some of the ArtCurrents pieces and it might also encourage ArtCurrents participation. Commissioner Hull commented that it would be fun to do a city poll regarding the ArtCurrents pieces. Chairman Drake also suggested QR codes on the art plaques where people could vote.

The current year's budget was discussed. It was agreed that the Four Corners roundabout would be for an amount not to exceed \$50,000. Mr. Taylor will check on the availability of electricity at the site and Chairman Drake will work on the call. Mr. Taylor said that he will look at the totals after the meeting and run the numbers and present to the commission next month. Chairman Drake said that if there are a couple of projects that they can get done this fiscal year that were not budgeted for, they can be decided at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: MOTION by Commissioner Larsen, seconded by Commissioner Johnstone, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Amy Ferguson
Executive Assistant