

**ARTS COMMISSION MINUTES**  
**November 26, 2019**  
**City Hall, Conference Room #6**

**Attendees:** Amy Ferguson, John Bruning, Ali Shute, Teresa Runge, Troy Tymesen, David Groth, Mary Lee Ryba, Mag Behrmann, Jennifer Drake, Derek Kahler, Bev Moss (via telephone), Amy Evans, Alyssa Livingston (Student Representative)

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

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

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Norman Leffler said that he has been a resident of Hayden and Coeur d'Alene for 21 years, and was a physician in practice for 45 years. He served in the Air Force from 1958 through 1964. He commented that he has been following what has been in the newspaper in regard to the "Marker #11" public art, and said that he thinks the art is "junk" and is public propaganda and offensive to Americans in general. He noted that the piece was installed in Riverstone for over 3 years and that he was in Riverstone this past summer and passed it a few times. He commented that during his time in service he went to all of the Iron Curtain countries and that the statue is as offensive to him as putting up a picture of a swastika would be. He also noted that the statue has been on the internet and thousands of people have reacted to it. He said that we are just getting over in the last 15 years the Aryan Nations being here and that the commission is doing the same thing with the art. He commented that the commission has offended the community's culture and heritage and he called for all those who were responsible for the art to hand in their resignation, and said that if they knew anything about art, they would never have considered it.

Brian Welch, Athol, reviewed the vision statement of the Coeur d'Alene Arts Commission and commented that the rejects the idea that the hammer and sickle, as a symbol of oppression and death, defines this city. He reviewed the purposes of the Arts Commission and said that he failed to see how the symbol of a totalitarian regime improves or enhances one of the best cities in America, and noted that a swastika would never have been put up in the first place. He commented that, in his opinion, art should inspire and uplift the soul and he feels the commission has succeeded in bringing Russian principles to Coeur d'Alene. He said that he hopes the City takes the art piece away and never brings it back.

Amy Weinsheim said that she is a resident of Coeur d'Alene, and wanted to voice her gratitude to the Arts Commission and her dismay with the unilateral decision to remove the art piece. She said that to see people in positions of leadership give in to loud voices is truly disheartening. To give in to loud and ill-informed voices is the true danger, not the single symbol in a multifaceted piece of art. She commented that she was present at the meeting to thank the commissioners for their work and noted that she is truly sad about this.

Sandi Bloem, Coeur d'Alene, commended the Arts Commission for what they do. She noted that they are all volunteers and it is not easy, and the commissioners followed the process.

Public art is a huge part of our city and other cities around us. It slows us down and creates conversation. Sometimes it is adversarial and that's okay. It influences all the arts, and brings other art sources to our community, including the opera and other kinds of art, which come because they see what this community has done in regard to public art. Surveys have been done and it has been found that the public art realm was more important to the citizens of this community than voting. Ms. Bloem said that if we had what we didn't like in the library, the last thing we should do is think we shouldn't have a library, or remove library staff, or take funding from the library. She commented that there is a process to follow, and the commission followed it and she commended the commission.

**REVIEW/CORRECTIONS/APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Commissioner Groth, seconded by Commissioner Shute, to approve the minutes of October 22, 2019. Motion carried.**

**REVIEW/CORRECTIONS/APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT: Motion by Commissioner Shute, seconded by Commissioner Bruning, to approve the October, 2019 Financial Report. Motion carried.**

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:**

Chairman Drake welcomed new Student Representative, Alyssa Livingston. Ms. Livingston said that she attends Coeur d'Alene High School, and just came from a rehearsal for competitive drama. She also does "AP" classes so she can get hours in her "AP" Government class. She is a senior.

Chairman Drake said that she had someone ask to her today about "Leopold," the statue that is out on the lake wrapped in plastic. Troy commented that the statue is wrapped right now because they did not finish the exterior before the weather changed. It is part of the state's public art collection.

**STAFF COMMENTS:** There were none.

**REMOVAL OF MARKER #11 FROM ARTCURRENTS COLLECTION:**

Mr. Tymesen commented that it has been an energized period of time in regard to Marker #11. He noted that the mayor has directed councilmembers to provide input so that they can have continuous improvement on things to better the process. Mr. Tymesen noted that the piece has been removed, and that the commission did everything they were supposed to do. He noted that the piece is not owed by the City of Coeur d'Alene but is on loan through the ArtCurrents program. They will be seeking ways in which to learn and grow and move forward. Council has been given a bit of homework to do on the subject. Mr. Tymesen wished the commissioners a Happy Thanksgiving and thanked them for all that they have done.

Councilmember Evans said that the mayor has asked for feedback and comments on improvements, if needed, on the process, and has asked the council to provide the comments and feedback through Mr. Tymesen or the mayor. Councilmember Evans noted that she is happy to

collect comments from the Arts Commissioners also, or they are welcome to go directly to Mr. Tymesen.

#### **WEBSITE FAQs REVIEW:**

Councilmember Evans said that she received an email on November 19<sup>th</sup> from a citizen, Elaine Price, and reviewed Ms. Price's comments regarding encouraging public dialogue, and providing an outlet for public comments. She noted that they were valuable suggestions in regard to providing an email address and an opportunity for Councilmember Evans to share that everyone is welcome to come to the monthly meetings and that the commission welcomes feedback and comments. She also noted that the public is always welcome to reach out to her, the commission members, staff support, or Mr. Tymesen. Commissioner Shute commented that one suggestion she has been thinking about is to include a description of the ArtCurrents pieces on the website, and to place QR codes on the pieces pointing to the web page. It was discussed that background information is not currently included on the ArtCurrents pieces. Chairman Drake said that the commission has the information that was submitted by the artists during the call, so it would just be a matter of putting the description on the website. She further commented that the more information that is provided, and the more easily accessible it is, the better. She further said that she truly believes and will always stand by the idea that art should cause discourse, and that she loves getting extra information out there and informing the public. She commented that the ArtCurrents subcommittee can look into it, and it might also be good to involve the Ped/Bike Brochure subcommittee too. Commissioner Groth said that a two or three sentence artist statement on the plaques would be powerful. Commissioner Shute said that it would mean having a larger plaque which would increase the costs quite a bit. Commissioner Moss said that it was the intent of the Ped/Bike brochure subcommittee to have a QR code for each art piece that would take them to the web page and she doesn't think it would be a huge undertaking and her committee will talk about it.

#### **PROCEDURE FOR NEW UTILITY BOX WRAPS:**

Commissioner Moss asked for clarification on the procedure. Chairman Drake said that she recalled that the last time they did a call for box wraps, they decided to prepare a "wait list" of artists. Ms. Ferguson explained that it was her understanding that when new boxes became available, the subcommittee would reach out to a certain number of artists on the list and ask them to submit new artwork, rather than just going with the previously submitted artwork. It was agreed that the subcommittee would wait until January to contact the "wait list" artists.

#### **RESIGNATION OF ARTS COMMISSIONER SARAH GARCIA:**

Ms. Ferguson noted that Commissioner Garcia has resigned but would still be available as an Ignite liaison but unable to attend regular monthly meetings. Chairman Drake commented that if Ms. Garcia still wanted to do that and no one from Ignite wanted to move into a full commissioner role, that would be fine with her, but she would also like to discuss it with Ignite. Councilmember Evans said that she thinks there is value in having an Ignite member liaison attend the meetings. Mr. Tymesen said that he would contact Ignite in regard to finding a board member that can commit.

**APPROVAL OF ARTS COMMISSION APPOINTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Chairman Drake commented that the commission has two vacancies and received two unsolicited applications from Lindsey Sichelstiel, and Dr. Priscilla Bell. She and Councilmember Evans met with both, and had excellent conversations. Both applicants have different strengths that they would bring to the commission. Dr. Bell has a lot of experience in regard to community involvement and engagement and seems eager to help out in the community and be involved. Ms. Sichelstiel has an extensive background in art and is excited to hit the ground running and get working. The subcommittee feels that they are very good fits for the commission.

**MOTION by Commissioner Runge, seconded by Commissioner Shute, that the Arts Commission recommend the appointment of Dr. Priscilla Bell and Lindsey Sichelstiel.**

**DISCUSSION:** Commissioner Groth asked if there was any feeling that the applicants' interest was inspired by the controversy. Chairman Drake said that the applications came in before the controversy.

**Motion carried.**

**APPROVAL OF PURCHASE OF DONALD CADDEN SCULPTURE "OPEN ARMS" AND NEW LOCATION:**

Mr. Tymesen said that Father Don Cadden, deceased, was a priest for 59 years, and a high school teacher at Gonzaga Prep. He loved doing metal art. The art piece was previously unnamed, and was in the ArtCurrents program. The estate is offering to keep the art in Coeur d'Alene, and the original price of the piece was \$13,000. The estate has offered to sell the piece to the City for \$7,100. One idea for the piece would be to install it in the new Atlas Waterfront area. Mr. Tymesen commented that the City is under contract with T. LaRiviera to start earth work down there and when it is done they could find a home for the piece in the Lake District.

Commissioner Groth wondered what some of Father Cadden's pieces have sold for. Mr. Tymesen said that most of his work is privately held and he did not do a lot of public art. Commissioner Shute commented that she spoke to Val Kuntz, family friend, who said that Father Cadden was very shy about his artwork and did not get a lot of pieces out in the public. She doesn't think he was very familiar with selling his pieces. Chairman Drake said that she loved the idea that Father Cadden was a prominent local figure and the fact that they know that it withstands the weather and looks even better in the winter with its vivid color. Over the years, the statue hasn't shown any wear and tear. She further commented that she thinks the Atlas project will have some larger public art pieces, but that is going to take a while and it is always nice to have a couple of smaller pieces that are ready to go and ready to liven up the place as soon as it is close to completion.

**MOTION by Commissioner Shute, seconded by Commissioner Bruning, to purchase the "Open Arms" sculpture by Father Donald Cadden, for the purchase price of \$7,100.00. Motion carried.**

**APPROVAL OF PATTY SGRECCI MOBILE DONATION:**

Chairman Drake commented that this item was discussed at last month's meeting and is an offer of a donation of a mobile to the Library. Bette Ammon, Library Director, said that they are ready to move forward and have picked a site where the mobile can be installed and have completed the donation form. Commissioner Runge commented that the artist, Patty Sgrecci, was an artist who passed away about a year and a half ago. Her husband and friend, Donna Bain, are working together to spread Patty's work.

**MOTION by Commissioner Runge, seconded by Commissioner Groth, to accept the donation. Motion carried.**

**APPROVAL OF SUBMISSION OF PUBLIC ART INFORMATION TO PUBLIC ART ARCHIVES PROJECT:**

Ms. Ferguson explained that this item was discussed at the last commission meeting, but because it was not on the agenda, no motion could be made at the time. She commented that several years ago, the commission had previously approved the submission of the City's public art for inclusion in the Public Art Archives, which a program established by Westaf as a central database for information about public art in the Northwest, but the process was difficult and the project was never completed. Since that time, the City's public art has been combined into one database and submission of the public art for inclusion in the Public Art Archives project will be relatively easy.

**MOTION by Commissioner Shute, seconded by Commissioner Bruning, to move forward with the submission of the City's public art information to Westaf's Public Art Archives project. Motion carried.**

**UPDATE ON CAFE CONTRACT RENEWAL:**

In regard to the CAFE contract renewal that was approved at last month's Arts Commission meeting, Ms. Ferguson explained that she subsequently learned from CAFE that the City still has two outstanding calls in their purchased bundle, and as a result, no contract is necessary at this time. Once the calls have been used, a new one-year contract will be issued and Ms. Ferguson will bring it forward to the commission for approval.

**UPDATE ON "INSPIRED" PUBLIC ART SCULPTURE:**

Mr. Tymesen commented that there has been very little communication with the artist for a number of months, and he will be visiting his studio to speak with him. No update was provided.

**CARL ROWE EXHIBIT AT HREI ON DECEMBER 13:**

Commissioner Shute distributed the invitation to the exhibit. She reminded the commission that Carl Rowe contacted them several months ago wanting to see if they would facilitate an exhibit of his works. Mr. Rowe is the Idaho Conservation League 2019 artist in residence and has spent a great deal of time doing art for the State of Idaho. The exhibit will be a one-night event at the Human Rights Education Institute during Artwalk. She encouraged the commissioners to share the event and will email the invitation to Ms. Ferguson to send to the commissioners for

distribution by email. They will be having appetizers and probably a no host bar. Chairman Drake said that she is hopeful for a good turnout.

### **REVIEW OF DRAFT ARTCURRENTS BROCHURE:**

The commission reviewed the draft brochure. Discussion ensued regarding the number of brochures to print and Ms. Ferguson commented that she still had a lot of last year's brochures that were never distributed. Commissioner Shute said that the commission may want to discuss a better way to remember where the brochures are and when to replace them. Commissioner Groth said that he put a note in a few places on the brochure holders that when the brochures are gone to contact him. Commissioner Shute said that the price is virtually the same for 500 brochures, versus 1,000. It was agreed that 1,000 brochures will be printed. Councilmember Evans suggested that Chairman Drake might ask other committee chairs for help in distributing the brochures. Ms. Ammon said that the library would be happy to display them.

### **MURAL FESTIVAL UPDATE:**

Commissioner Kahler said that he has been talking with Scott Lakey and they are going to look at some locations and start contacting business owners who would be interested in participating and will work on getting a group of artists together, as well as sponsors. Commissioner Kahler said that he will work on the educational aspect of it and see how they can run it through local schools and get kids involved as well. They will work out specifics and numbers and go from there. Chairman Drake suggested that when they are having the conversation about dates, they might want to talk with the City to see if there are any big issues or events that they need to work around.

Commissioner Bruning said that he knows the name of the painter who worked on the bridge over the river, who has some specific precautions, and he will get that information to Commissioner Bruning, who said that Commissioner Kahler might want to present that information to the artists.

### **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:**

ArtCurrents: Commissioner Runge said that the subcommittee talked about making some changes with the brochure, and she likes the idea of asking for more information in the Call to Artists, and adding the artist statements to the website. Chairman Drake said that acknowledging the new pieces during ArtWalk would be a good fit.

Ped/Bike Brochure: Commissioner Shute suggested that Commissioner Moss be appointed as Chair of the subcommittee and Commissioner Moss agreed to serve.

4-Corners Entrance: The subcommittee will get together and meet and will hopefully have the Call ready within the next couple of months and provide more information at the next meeting.

**APPROVAL OF NEXT MEETING DATE:**

**MOTION by Commissioner Shute, seconded by Commissioner Bruning, that the next meeting of the Arts Commission will be on January 28, 2020. Motion carried.**

**ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT:** An unidentified female citizen asked for the opportunity to provide public comment. She thanked the mayor for taking Marker #11 down as quickly as possible and commented that she found the hammer and sickle as offensive as a swastika.

**ADJOURNMENT: MOTION by Commissioner Shute, seconded by Commissioner Groth, to adjourn. Motion carried.** The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Amy Ferguson  
Executive Assistant