

**ARTS COMMISSION MINUTES**  
**February 26, 2019**

**Attendees:** Jennifer Drake, Amy Ferguson, Bev Moss, Ali Shute, John Bruning, Teresa Runge, Troy Tymesen, Teresa Runge, David Groth, Sarah Garcia, Isabelle Bradley

**Guests:** Bill Greenwood, Parks & Recreation Director  
Kim Harrington, Assistant Project Manager, Streets & Eng. Dept.  
Chris Bosley, City Engineer

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

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

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Fred McMurray expressed appreciation for the work of the commission. He directed his comments toward the Freedom Tree sculpture that was destroyed in the recent fire at artist Jeff May's shop. He asked the commission to see if there was any way that they could come up with a special project in which they could commission Mr. May to do the work, and noted that Mr. May also does bronze work. He said that he was told by Commissioner Shute that it was not how the commission works, but felt that he should come and address the commission to see if there was something that could be done for Mr. May. Chairman Drake said that the commission would definitely take Mr. McMurray's request under consideration and expressed appreciation for his comments. She commented that the commission would love to be able to support all of the artists in the community and if there is something they can do, they will find a way to do it.

**REVIEW/CORRECTIONS/APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Commissioner Shute noted that the reason for the plaque size increase for the McEuen Public Art plaques was not to accommodate the logo, as stated in the minutes, although she is unsure why the company had to go with the larger size (6" x 8"). **Motion by Commissioner Shute, seconded by Commissioner Groth, to approve the minutes of January 22, 2019, as amended. Motion carried.**

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

Commissioner Moss asked, in regard to the financial report, what the commissioners should be focusing on. Chairman Drake said that when the commission isn't actively working on project, there is not much change in the financial statement from month to month. Mr. Tymesen commented that they will be making the first installment payment of \$40,000 for the two art pieces on Seltice, which is the most significant project in the City of Coeur d'Alene. He noted that the engineering report has just come in and they are working through obtaining a permit

from the Building Department. Mr. Tymesen further commented that the artist has been excellent at communicating and the project is going very well.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:**

Chairman Drake noted that Commissioner Roberta Larsen has resigned from the commission and commented that she has always been a huge supporter of the work of the commission.

Commissioner Shute said that she met with Parks & Recreation Director Bill Greenwood just prior to the meeting and noted that one of the issues they have been dealing with in regard to the Riverstone summer concert series is the lack of shade at the amphitheater, which has been dubbed “the frying pan.” Commissioner Shute is concerned because she just recently found out that one of their musicians that played at Riverstone last summer suffered mild heat stroke. She would like to make sure that the musicians are safe and noted that the Parks Department has come up with a short-term solution in the meantime, but in the long-term she would like to apply for a community grant. Commissioner Shute commented that it will be a long process and will require a collaboration and partnership. She would like to talk to an architect and engineer and Jon Mueller, who designed the park, and commented that she was just bringing up the idea of an Arts & Culture Alliance partnership with the City and the Arts Commission to do something that is artistic and well-designed, and will provide more information and updates at future meetings.

**STAFF COMMENTS:** There were none.

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW ARTS COMMISSIONER – SARAH GARCIA:**

Chairman Drake introduced new Arts Commissioner Sarah Garcia, who is the new ignite cda liaison to the commission. Commissioner Garcia commented that she has been a comptroller at NIC for 16 years and has been serving on the ignite board for about a year and a half. She said that she has learned to spend her first couple of meetings doing a lot of listening, and then participating after that. She noted that she is the “black sheep” in her family because everyone in her family is artistic (and she is not.) She is excited to be able to help out in any way that she can. Commissioner Shute commented that “numbers people” are very artistic in that they have to be incredibly creative to be able to balance a budget. Chairman Drake said that ignite is a huge partner of the commission and they are happy to have Commissioner Garcia as their new commission member.

**“INSPIRED” PUBLIC ART UPDATE:**

No Update.

**PRESENTATION: STORM DRAIN ART:**

Kim Harrington, Streets & Engineering Assistant Project Manager, said that the City operates stormwater runoff under a permit with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Part of the permit requirements are public education and outreach. She noted that all of the stormwater either goes into the aquifer, the lake, or the Spokane River. The important thing is to keep it as clean as possible, and she would like to use an education component in conjunction with art. She noted that a lot of residents believe that the stormwater goes to the Wastewater Treatment Plant and is treated, which is not the case. Ms. Harrington said that the City marks the storm drains using volunteer groups and that they have a standard stencil that they use, or metal markers. Her

goal is to educate and inspire the public and showcase the stormwater system, along with the message that pollutants will go into our waters, along with adding additional art to the community. Ms. Harrington displayed some examples of stormwater artwork in different communities and noted that the artwork is temporary and would only last 2 to 3 years because of the weather.

Commissioner Runge asked if any other cities in Idaho did stormwater art. Ms. Harrington responded that she hasn't found any. She noted that they would use traffic paint for the artwork, which would be the same paint that is used to stripe the roads because it is approved already. They would provide the artists with the primary paint colors and are requesting that the commission approve funding for the project, which would include four locations, and a total of \$1,000, with each artist receiving \$250. Ms. Harrington would work with staff in helping to draft the call to artist, review the submissions and select the winning entries. The locations were chosen based on high pedestrian traffic areas and high exposure and include two locations on Front Avenue in front of the library, 2<sup>nd</sup> & Sherman Avenue, and City Park. In addition to the paint, the City would also supply the traffic control devices.

Ms. Harrington said that there will be a Coeur d'Alene Water Festival in McEuen Park on May 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, and they would like to have the Call to Artists wrapped up and the artists selected by that time so that they can do the paintings during the water festival.

Chairman Drake asked if there are more than four potential locations for stormwater art. Ms. Harrington said that there are, but since it is a new program, they thought they could start with four locations. Chairman Drake said that they have found that when they do these types of calls, as in the example of the signal boxes, it is the same amount of work, whether they are doing four signal boxes or ten, in that it requires the same information and working with the same number of submissions. If there are more locations available, they usually like to do more. Ms. Harrington said that they would definitely be able to get more locations if that is what the commission wanted. Chairman Drake said that the proposed project is fun, educational, a "big bang for the buck," accessible, and easy, and that she thinks it is a great idea.

Mr. Bosley asked about the range of fees for artists that other entities are paying. Ms. Harrington said that she has seen the artist fees go as high as \$700 per artist for storm drain art. She also said that the City would do the prep of the area, including pressure wash, etc. She is still researching to find out if it is better to clear coat the art work, or not. There is also an option to add some extremely fine sand to the paint to give it a little bit of a grip factor since it would be on public sidewalks. She noted that she has spoken with DEQ and the CDA Tribe and they told her to report back and noted that they would like to join in the effort in regard to possibly helping to select artists and looking for locations.

Commissioner Groth thanked Ms. Harrington for her presentation and commented that it is an exciting idea. He suggested touching a few more areas, including possibly one in midtown, Riverstone, north of town, and the parks. Chairman Drake said that it is a fun idea because it is something that the commission could do every year. Ms. Harrington commented that there are a lot of communities that do it, and noted that she spoke to a lady in Baltimore today who would

be willing to send templates, liability forms, etc. so that the commission doesn't have to re-create the program but could just tailor it to our community.

Mr. Greenwood asked about the limitations of the artwork going into the street and noted that it limits what the artists can do. He also noted that a long-term maintenance program would need to be established. Ms. Harrington said that the artwork would be considered temporary because it will not last more than a few years. Mr. Tymesen suggested possibly offering a donation to an association at the schools and letting the young people take a shot at it and have an internal competition. Ms. Harrington said that she thinks that Sorensen would be a great place for something like that, and also noted that they don't have to stop with the storm drains as stormwater is also managed through swales and the inlet to a swale could also be an area for art.

Commissioner Groth asked where the money would come from. Chairman Drake said that it would depend on the location. Commissioner Groth suggested a payment of \$500 per artist instead of \$250. Commissioner Shute also suggested that artists could be placed on a reserve list, as has been done with the signal boxes project, so that as additional locations are selected, the reserve list could be utilized without having to issue another call.

Ms. Harrington said that the cities that she has looked at will have a theme in the Call to Artists. Chairman Drake suggested that each year could have its own theme.

**MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Shute, seconded by Commissioner Groth, that the commission issue a Call to Artists for the Stormwater Drain Art Project, with each artist receiving \$500 per location.**

Commissioner Groth volunteered to serve as the subcommittee chair for this project.

Mr. Tymesen asked about a decision regarding the number of locations.

**AMENDED MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Shute, seconded by Commissioner Groth, that the commission issue a Call to Artists for the Stormwater Drain Art Project, for up to eight locations, with each artist receiving \$500. The eight locations will include the four locations identified, and four schools.**

**DISCUSSION:** Commissioner Groth suggested a location in midtown. Ms. Harrington said that the additional spots would need to be identified quickly so that they can measure them and provide information for the Call to Artists.

**Motion carried.**

Commissioner Groth said that he will provide a report regarding the project at the meeting next month.

#### **UPDATE ON “OCTOPUS” BIKE RACK & “SOARING RAVENS”:**

Mr. Greenwood said that the Parks & Rec Department has both of the pieces in storage. In regard to the “Soaring Ravens” piece, they are waiting for a tree to die so they can reinstall it. He noted that there is a tree in decline in the new Memorial Park parking lot that is a possibility. He suggested that the Octopus bike rack could be relocated near the entrance to the Harbor House and said that there is plenty of room to anchor the bike rack and that it would be seen by a lot of people. The bike rack could be installed this spring or summer and they would anchor some of it to the existing concrete and would probably also use some cabling in the dirt.

#### **MCEUEN PUBLIC ART PLAQUES UPDATE:**

Mr. Greenwood said that the Parks & Rec Department is in possession of the new plaques and is waiting for the weather to improve. The plaques will be pinned and glued, and the glue needs warmer and drier conditions. As soon as the weather improves, they will install the plaques. In regard to engraving versus casting, Mr. Greenwood commented that he doesn’t see much difference. He also noted that the “Valentine” bench is getting a lot of photo ops and for something that is “off the shelf,” it is certainly a well-received piece.

#### **RELOCATION OF “BREAKING BOUNDARIES” AND “PLUNGE”:**

Mr. Tymesen said that they do not have dedicated spots for the pieces and are open to suggestions. Mr. Greenwood said that he has some reservations about moving “Plunge” to the Fernan Trailhead because of vandalism possibilities at that location. He noted that he is very much in favor of art in the parks, and said that “Breaking Boundaries” might go well in the skate park, at the north end. He also suggested that a good location for “Plunge” might be the steps at Independence Point. Since the steps are concrete, they would just have to drill and epoxy the statue to the steps. Mr. Greenwood suggested that the statue be located on the beach side of the steps, closer to the beach, down a step or two.

**MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Runge, seconded by Commissioner Shute, that the Arts Commission approve moving the “Breaking Boundaries” sculpture to the north side of the skate park, and “Plunge” to the Independence Point steps. Motion carried.**

#### **FREEDOM TREE UPDATE:**

Mr. Greenwood said that Mr. McMurray was the creative mind behind the carving that Jeff May did, and noted that Mr. McMurray was a POW and that is why the original tree was carved. The original tree had a plaque that was dedicated to Mr. McMurray. When they took the original Freedom Tree down, they kept a big portion of the tree. Mr. McMurray had the concept, and Mr. May captured his vision. Mr. McMurray called this summer to let Mr. Greenwood know that one of the wings had been broken and the sculpture was starting to sap, so Mr. Greenwood called Mr. May and Mr. May took the sculpture to his shop for repair. Mr. May’s shop subsequently burned down, and Mr. Greenwood said that he waited a week or so to contact Mr. May. He told Mr. May that there is no hurry but they are looking for a piece of timber that will suit and Mr. May said he will do the same art. Mr. May also said that he knows someone that will kiln dry a large piece of timber as that was one of the problems with the Freedom Tree is that it was sapping out. Mr. Greenwood commented that the unique thing about the sculpture is that it was not a stump in the ground, so it didn’t get any water wicking up. He said that it will probably be at least a year out before the piece can be recreated as Mr. May still needs to get his shop

together, gather tools, etc. Restitution has not been discussed and Mr. Greenwood said that he thinks that they paid Mr. May \$5,000 or \$6,000 to do the work from the Park Fund. There is still some money in the fund that Mr. Greenwood thinks they could use to help replace the statue, but they are waiting to see what Mr. May has in mind. Mr. Tymesen suggested that Mr. Greenwood check with the City's insurance company to see what might be covered. Mr. Greenwood said that Mr. May said that his estimate in today's market is that the piece is valued at about \$10,000.

#### **DISCUSSION RE: TIMELINE FOR PROJECTS:**

Chairman Drake said that at the last meeting the commission was talking about the first call probably being the murals, but with the storm drain project just approved, she suggested that it be done first, with the mural project following. Mr. Tymesen confirmed that the Centennial Trail mural would be completed this year. Chairman Drake suggested just doing one mural for simplicity's sake. She noted that the commission has already approved a spot for the mural on the sea wall, and asked Mr. Greenwood to comment on preparation of the sea wall. Mr. Greenwood expressed concerns about paint on the sea wall and commented that paint is an issue anywhere near the lake, as it has to be nontoxic and the problem with nontoxic paint is that it is not very durable. He said that they can help with whatever prep work needs to be done, and that he thinks the sea wall is in pretty good shape. Chairman Drake said that she would do some research on paint, and noted that they are hoping for a 10 – 15 year life span for the mural. She further commented that the measurements that were taken were from above the high water line and that the wall isn't directly butted up against the dock. Commissioner Bruning said that he would check on the paint used for the Centennial Trail Foundation's mural that was created last year. Chairman Drake said the mural subcommittee will meet this month and report back to the commission next month.

Chairman Drake said that the next priority would be the Four Corners area. Mr. Greenwood said that there is conduit already in that location for power. Commissioner Garcia agreed to serve on the subcommittee. Mr. Tymesen commented that the timing of the Four Corners project could be good as they move forward with the Memorial Field remodel.

It was agreed that the call for the Mural would go out in April or May, and that the timing of the Four Corners project wasn't as important because it is not as weather dependent. If the call can go out sometime in the summer, that would give the artist all of winter and spring to put the sculpture together, for installation next summer/fall. Mr. Greenwood commented that there is no power at the Riverstone entrance.

#### **ARTCURRENTS COLLECTION – DISCUSSION RE: RETENTION OF PIECES OF 2019/2020:**

The pieces in the current ArtCurrents collection were reviewed.

**MOTION by Commissioner Shute, seconded by Commissioner Moss, to arrange for return of the five pieces that were installed in 2015/16, and to communicate with the artists of the 2017/18 pieces to see if they would like to extend for another year. Motion carried.**

## **UPDATE ON INSTALL TIMELINE FOR VIKING SHIP BIKE RACK:**

No update.

## **ART ON THE ISLANDS UPDATE:**

Mr. Greenwood said that he hasn't heard anything. Commissioner Shute said that when somebody put up signs on the islands about future art pieces, the community on Government Way reacted very strongly, saying they did not want their islands disrupted with art. She recommended that the commission not proceed until they are able to discuss the project with the people that live there. Commissioner Moss suggested that a meeting with the neighborhood might be a good idea, and that the number of proposed locations was maybe a "shell shock" for the neighborhood. She also commented that the selection committee would also need to include some people from the neighborhood.

Chairman Drake said that the question is whether this project is a priority. Commissioner Moss suggested that the commission might want to keep it in mind and maybe find a nice location that would fit a piece and be well received by the neighborhood. Commissioner Shute said that her concern is that up until now the art that is going on the islands is donated and so it is not necessarily a piece that was created to go in that spot. Commissioner Moss suggested taking it on a "case by case" basis and sharing it with the neighborhood.

## **CHIEF MORRIS ANTELOPE RELOCATION UPDATE:**

Commissioner Bruning said that the move is on hold until the snow melts.

## **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Arts Commission Applicant Review: Chairman Drake that she will talk to Councilmember Evans regarding the openings on the commission.

Riverstone Public Art: The subcommittee was reviewed. Commissioner Runge will take over as chair of the subcommittee. Ms. Ferguson will remove resigning Commissioner Larsen from any subcommittees that she was assigned to.

Performing Arts: Commissioner Groth commented that years ago Coeur d'Alene had a concert series where they brought in well-known artists at NIC, and he noted that there haven't been any of those kinds of concerts for a long time. He further commented that last summer there was tremendous energy and talent in regard to the Ziggy Marley concert and thinks it would be a good idea to start a conversation about trying to start a tradition of concerts at a whole other level on the NIC stage. Commissioner Shute said that the Arts & Culture Alliance would like to participate in those discussions.

Ped/Bike Brochure: Commissioner Moss commented that when the snow melts, the subcommittee will work on updating the brochure.

Murals: Chairman Drake said that she will get together with Councilmember Evans and Commissioner Moss to set up a time to work on the call.

Seltice Way Roundabouts: Mr. Tymesen said that they are in the process of creating foam core poster boards for the project for display at City Hall. The posters should be done by the next meeting.

Commissioner Runge asked if the commissioners had any ideas regarding Mr. McMurray's request. Mr. Tymesen said that if they can get the City's insurance company to step up or can figure out how to fund it, they could possibly get the money to Mr. May for creation of the replacement piece.

Commissioner Groth asked if there was something else that they could consider for Mr. May. Commissioner Shute said that her concern is setting a precedent. Chairman Drake asked the commissioners to put some thought into it. Commissioner Shute noted that there is a GoFundMe account for Mr. May that people can contribute to. Mr. Greenwood commented that Mr. May's struggle right now is replacing tools so that he can work again.

Commissioner Shute thanked everyone who bought tickets for the Mardi Gras fund raiser.

**ADJOURNMENT: MOTION by Commissioner Shute, seconded by Commissioner Bruning, to adjourn. Motion carried.** The meeting adjourned at 5:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Amy Ferguson  
Executive Assistant