

**ARTS COMMISSION MINUTES**  
**April 26, 2016**

**Attendees:** Jennifer Drake, Hilary Anderson, Sean Holm, Tina Johnson, ~~John Bruning~~, Deanna Goodlander, Trudy Elliott, Marina Lundy, Jared Helm, Christina Hull, David Groth, ~~Maggie Hurst~~, ~~Mark Johnstone~~, ~~Amy Evans~~, Amy Ferguson, Roberta Larsen, Marina Lundy

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

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

**AGENDA AMENDMENTS:** There were none.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Greg Lewis presented a proposal for musical busking (performance art), and said that it would provide a dynamic and tourist friendly atmosphere in the downtown area. He noted that the busking would probably need to be controlled through licensing the artists, and having designated spots. Some suggested spots include Sherman Avenue, McEuen Park, etc. Mr. Lewis suggested that panhandling could be eliminated by instituting a fee, and he thinks that there is probably a way to create a matrix online so that artists could sign up. He also suggested requiring only internal battery powered equipment, with the artists wearing an I.D. card and the slots being for one hour. There would be no selling of merchandise.

Mr. Lewis mentioned that he has lived in the area for about 2 ½ years and moved here from Kamiah, Idaho, where he was president of the local Arts Commission for two years and a board member for five years. He thinks that the musical busking would be a great benefit to Coeur d'Alene in the summer months of June, July, and August, and possibly also during parts of September and May.

Commissioner Larsen asked about donations to the artists. Mr. Lewis that that part of busking is having a tip container and he doesn't see a problem with that as it is part of the ambience of busking. He suggested signs for designated busking areas.

Commissioner Larsen asked Mr. Lewis how he foresaw the busking affecting the various groups such as Art Walk with music in their venues. Mr. Lewis said that he thinks it would enhance them in that if you have the artists at specific spots where it is not going to impact or draw crowds away, he thinks it would work. There are really only about 3 to 5 busking slots available, and if they are trying to "stretch" Sherman Avenue economically, it could help to pull crowds further down Sherman.

Commissioner Johnson commented that the Art Walk event is only 3 hours a month, and the busking could be any day/evening. Mr. Lewis said that the word would get out and attract people downtown.

Commissioner Helm said that he thinks it is an awesome idea and thinks the commission is kind of headed in that direction with its street performing ideas. He noted that the biggest issue right

now is that the commission has so much on their plate and the proposal would require a lot of scheduling, approving, etc., and would definitely be something that they would need somebody else to run. Chairman Drake suggested that Mr. Lewis talk to Commissioner Groth regarding his ideas.

Commissioner Helm mentioned that the Arts Commission has an opening and suggested that Mr. Lewis might want to consider applying.

Mr. Holm said that the flip side of authorizing musical busking is code enforcement issues. He suggested that code enforcement would get “hammered” for a while until people understand how the program works. Mr. Lewis suggested press releases and advertisement, along with designated areas and signs with possible QR codes which would direct persons to the requirements for musical busking as a way to educate the public and reduce the code enforcement issues. Mr. Lewis said that he is willing to do whatever he can to help promote the program. Telephone: (208) 451-4648.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Commissioner Johnson said that the minutes referred to the Four Corners project, but it is now called a traffic circle. **MOTION by Commissioner Helm, seconded by Commissioner Larsen, to approve the March 22, 2016 minutes. Motion carried.**

**FINANCIAL REPORT: MOTION by Commissioner Helm, seconded by Commissioner Goodlander, to approve the February, 2016 financial statement. Motion carried.**

**COMMISSION COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Hull said that Emerge has had one Arts Commission sponsored class on play writing that was attended by 11 teens – a combination of kids from Children’s Village, Art on the Edge, and the general community. The class was well received. Next time they will add a poetry component.

Emerge will be offering another class on yarn making this Saturday and there are still openings. Commissioners Hull and Helm will the Emerge board meeting next meeting.

Commissioner Elliott asked about the status of plaques on artwork and noted that she has looked at several pieces and there is no identification on them. Mr. Holm said that the commission has talked about it several times and his recollection is they were looking at a standardized font and size. He noted that Ms. Ferguson was able to determine that North Idaho Trophy does the brass plaques, and the owner, Mr. Lyda, would be able to look at past records to determine size and font. Mr. Holm said that he and another planner will go out on Thursday and compile a list of the art pieces that don’t have identification. Commissioner Elliott asked where the funding for the plaques would come from. Mr. Holm said that if the pieces are located in the LCDC Districts, then the money can come from those funds; otherwise it would come from the Art Fund. Ms. Anderson said that it would be nice to ultimately standardize the plaques and maybe they could do a few a year. Chairman Drake said that the first step is to figure out the pieces that need plaques, and then a subcommittee could get together to work on the standardized specs.

Commissioner Larsen submitted the invoice from the Ped/Bike Committee for the Art in Motion brochures.

**STAFF COMMENTS:**

Mr. Holm said that he met with Joe Sharnetsky and Chuck Houck today about the Sails. Mr. Houk thinks that he can save them, but his caution is that they won't last long before they start oxidizing again. He suggested taking a look at possibly spraying them with some sort of UV protectant or clear coat, however the EPA has issues with that material and it has to be done very well and can be expensive. Mr. Holm's idea was to talk to Cart Wrappers and see if they could use the UV film that they use on the boxes and put a film on the sails. He called them and they will take a look at the Sails and give him a bid.

Mr. Holm noted that the modifications to the Rainbow Arch are complete. Everyone agreed that they look great. Commissioner Helm commented that just being able to see the cables during the day is great.

Mr. Holm asked if the possibility of wrapping the ends of the arch is still on the table. It was agreed to put it on next month's agenda. Ms. Anderson noted that wrapping the arch was not budgeted for this year. Commissioner Larsen asked if the person who does the wrapping has any suggestions. Mr. Holm said that he has samples that the commission can look at.

Commissioner Hull said that she is undecided about wrapping the arch. Commissioner Elliott noted that the lights have made such a radical difference that she doesn't find the piece as stark as when it was first installed. Commissioner Helm commented that the white color is nautical and he would be nervous to put something on that expansive space and then have an eyesore. Commissioner Hull agreed and said that wrapping the Arch would call attention to it again and, at least for now, the grumblings have stopped. If the commission does something dramatic, not everyone is going to like it. Chairman Drake asked to put it on the agenda for next month for a decision.

Ms. Ferguson commented that she is a Den Leader for a group of cub scouts and they are working on their Art Explosion pin this month so she is taking them on a tour of the public art in Coeur d'Alene after the meeting today.

Mr. Holm said that the utility wraps should be finished within the next few weeks. He believes there are three utility boxes left and five green McEuen boxes that need to be completed.

Chairman Drake asked the committee members to encourage people to apply for the Arts Commission vacancy and spread the word.

**AMENDMENT TO ART POLICY DISCUSSION:**

Ms. Anderson said that she has looked through the policy and wanted to get input from the committee. The policy is available for review on the city’s website. Some of the things that they discussed last month include adding community arts and allowing the commission to spend money for performing arts, fine arts, arts education, purchases/sponsorships, etc. They may also want to clarify the oversight responsibilities of the commission as well as adding something about the ability to pay for staffing or administrative costs. She also suggested clarification regarding relocating site specific works of art, and language about maintenance and management of the public art collection. Ms. Anderson also noted that the term limits for the commission are listed in the policy and asked if the commission wanted to revisit that.

Commissioner Goodlander said that the term limits were put in place when she was on the Arts Commission previously. The reason for the term limits is that art is subjective, and she thinks it is important to have term limits so that they can have different ideas and thoughts. Initially, the people that were on the Arts Commission had been serving for 10 or 15 years and it made it difficult for new ideas to come into play. She thinks it is important for the term limits to stay in place and that the commission needs change.

Commissioner Larsen said that the commission visited the term limits last year and reiterated that they would keep them. Chairman Drake said that the reasons for keeping the term limits trump the reasons for getting rid of them. Commissioner Helm said that his fear is that the pendulum is actually swinging the other way in that maintaining someone’s focus and dedication for three years is becoming somewhat difficult, and it is difficult to get people to even serve on the commission. Chairman Drake agreed that the commission has lost some people due to term limits and external circumstances and has been in a strange state of flux for about a year.

Ms. Anderson said that it might be a good idea to have a small subcommittee to work with her on the policy revisions. Chairman Drake and Commissioner Goodlander agreed to serve on the subcommittee. Commissioner Goodlander asked for the proposed changes to be sent to the commission members for review.

**FREE-STANDING BOOK DROP FOR NEW BRANCH AT LAKE CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY:**

Bette Ammon, Library Director, asked for the commission’s assistance in regarding to vinyl wrapping a donated book drop for the new branch library at Lake City High School, and artistic bike racks for the main library building front and back entrance.

Commissioner Johnson asked if these projects are something that the Friends of the Library could fund. Ms. Ammon said that the Friends group funds a lot of their programming, summer reading, etc., but the Library Foundation does bigger gifts and she will be potentially asking them to provide matching funds.

**MOTION by Commissioner Goodlander to issue a Call to Artists for artistic bike racks for the front and back entrances of the Library using Ignite CDA art funds.**

**DISCUSSION:** Commissioner Hull said that at the last meeting of the commission, they filled their calendar for the next year and she doesn't know if the commission has the manpower or the time to fit this project in. Commissioner Goodlander said that she would be willing to chair the subcommittee. Commissioner Helm said that he thinks the commission should focus on the bike rack as he is concerned about the rust on the book drop. Chairman Drake said that the vinyl wrap of the book drop is a smaller expense and suggested that Ms. Ammon be provided with information regarding Cart Wrappers. Mr. Holm noted that the cost for wrapping the vinyl utility boxes is about \$1,275.00. Ms. Ammon said that she thinks the Library Foundation could potentially do the wrap project. Commissioner Groth said that he would like to explore the option of possibly moving the unused bike racks on 4<sup>th</sup> Street.

**Motion carried.**

Commissioner Hull and Ms. Ammon will serve on the subcommittee with Commissioner Goodlander.

**STREET PERFORMING:**

Commissioner Groth asked the commission for their thoughts on street performances. He noted that Kathy Lewis, Deputy City Clerk, said that in order to have street performances downtown it has to be part of an event. Mr. Holm said that it is his understanding that they are only allowed to issue one event permit per day and if there is an existing event, they would have to roll it into that. Commissioner Hull mentioned that when she worked downtown, there were street performers in the summer on Sherman Avenue. Commissioner Groth said that the issue in the past has been trying to control open panhandling in the streets. He agrees that having a violin case open for tips is part of the whole interaction and people want to say thank you. He is envisioning one or two dates with multiple performers downtown, and suggested trying it a couple of times early in the summer and then learning from it and modifying the process from there. Commissioner Groth would rather that it feel like an event that was promoted, like Art Walk.

Discussion ensued regarding the application process used at Pikes Place Market, and it was noted that it is very structured because they have learned what works for them and the public.

Ms. Anderson said that the city would have to work through Legal and other city departments to change the policy. It might be easier to try out the two events this summer to see how it works. She confirmed that the way the policy is written right now, they can't do the year-round busking. She further confirmed that they could theoretically do a performance art walk, and the work would be on the commission to do the scheduling, get the word out, etc. Commissioner Groth will talk to Kathy Lewis and pick two days that aren't already permitted and decide how they want to organize the events. Commissioner Helm said that he thinks that the best application form for the performance arts would be a 30 to 60 second video uploaded to You Tube where they could view it, and noted that, as a performer you have to know that technology. Commissioner Larsen also suggested that Commissioner Groth talk to the Pikes Place Market organizers to see if they have a form that they could send. Commissioner Hull commented that she doesn't think it would be hard to find performers who want to participate in the event.

Commissioner Helm commented that it is his experience that things don't get done and it falls to the staff. It takes time to change policies and he feels that the commission is doing exactly what they said they weren't going to do, which is add more to their plate. It was suggested that Commissioner Groth take over the Performing Arts Chair from Commissioner Helm, with Commissioner Helm serving on the subcommittee. Commissioner Groth commented that he would get additional people to help.

**REQUEST FROM SPECIALIZED NEEDS RECREATION:**

Wendy Carroll, Specialized Needs Recreation (SNR) said that SNR is a part of the City of Coeur d'Alene Parks & Recreation Department, and they provide social and recreational opportunities for children and adults with special needs. They are going to be putting on an "Out of the Shadows" theatre program this year where all of the actors will be disabled and will have a shadow actor right beside them depending on their degree of need. This has been done many times before in other parts of the country and Scottsdale has been doing it for 15 years and they sell out every time. The project has a lot of community support. SNR would like to do "Beauty and the Beast" and they already having the licensing and scripts, and have booked the Kroc Center. Ellen Travolta, Jack Bannon, and Molly Bannon will also be involved. Ms. Carroll commented that everyone who auditions will be in the play. They will be drawing from the community in every possible way to assist with the production, sets, costumes, etc., and auditions will be starting in July. Ms. Carroll asked for the commission's support as they approach other organizations and businesses.

**MOTION by Commissioner Goodlander, seconded by Commissioner Helm, that the Arts Commission support Specialized Needs Recreation's "Out of the Shadows" theatre program. Motion carried.**

**MAYOR'S AWARDS IN THE ARTS ASSISTANT DISCUSSION:**

Commissioner Helm said that he has the Hagadone Event Center secured for either October 6<sup>th</sup> or October 13<sup>th</sup>. He needs to devote more time to his school and would be willing to do the Mayor's Awards again this year and train someone to take his place, and would also be willing to emcee the event as long as he is a member of the commission.

Commissioner Hull said that all of the commission members need to step up and help more with the nominations. Commissioner Helm said that was his frustration last year in that everyone wants to see the event continue, but no one wants to do anything about it. He noted that it is a ton of work, but it is not his passion and that time of the year he is also putting on a play with the high school students.

Commissioner Larsen volunteered to shadow Commissioner Helm and possibly pull in more people. It was pointed out that Commissioner Larsen's term will expire next year. Commissioner Elliott said that she has no problem helping, but she leaves the county on October 6<sup>th</sup>. It was agreed that Commissioner Elliott would train with Commissioner Helm. Chairman Drake said that it is an open discussion but it is agreed that this is Commissioner Helm's last year

chairing the Mayor's Awards. Commissioner Helm suggested that the commission could potentially pay Anne Mitchell and she could take creative control.

**PARK PLACE CONDOMINIUMS PUBLIC ART:**

Commissioner Johnstone was not in attendance and this item was placed on next month's agenda.

**"HOUSE OF PEACE" ARTIST'S OFFER TO SELL:**

The commission agreed that they were not interested in purchasing the "House of Peace" art piece.

**PRESS RELEASES:**

Commissioner Johnstone was not in attendance and this item was placed on next month's agenda.

**ADJOURNMENT: MOTION by Commissioner Larsen, seconded by Commissioner Helm, to adjourn.**

The meeting adjourned at 5:29 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted by:**

**Amy Ferguson  
Executive Assistant**