

ARTS COMMISSION MINUTES
February 23, 2021
City Hall, Conference Room #6

Attendees in Person: Chairman Jennifer Drake, Executive Assistant Sherrie Badertscher, Accountant Stephanie Padilla, Commissioner Mary Lee Ryba, Commissioner John Bruning, City Administrator Troy Tymesen

Commissioner Attendees via ZOOM: Ali Shute, Teresa Runge, David Groth, Zoey Hart, Bev Moss, Margaret Berhman, and Council Liaison Amy Evans.

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

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION: There were none.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were none.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Groth, seconded by Commissioner Ryba, to approve the January 26, 2021 minutes. **Motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT:

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Moss, seconded by Commissioner Shute, to approve the January, 2021 Financial Report. **Motion carried.**

COMMISSIONER/STAFF COMMENTS: There were none.

UPDATE ON 4-CORNERS PUBLIC ART PROJECT:

Commissioner Bruning stated the subcommittee met on February 8, and interviewed three (3) applicants: Humanity Memorial, “The Monument of Peace and Unity”; Cheryl Ann Metcalf, “We Have a Dream”; CJ Rench, “Connected”. The subcommittee were unanimous with the selection of “The Monument of Peace and Unity”. Commissioner Bruning explained that he went into the interviews favoring a particular piece, but after hearing the presentations by the artists and gaining more insight into each project, his choice had changed. He stated Humanity Memorial gave an impressive presentation which involved the adding of a lighting feature to the piece. He mentioned the subcommittee asked questions of the artists in regards to the durability of their proposals, project time frames, and if they could meet the September 2021 project completion deadline. City Accountant Stephanie Padilla mentioned that the issue of vandalism came up during the interviews and it was thought this piece would fit the area nicely and not incite any adverse reactions. Chairman Drake stated she was happy they implemented the interview process, and it sounded like the process was successful. Commissioner Bruning stated the art piece will be 24’ high and made of ½” steel construction. He stated it would be a very

visible art piece. City Administrator Tymesen stated his staff would prepare the staff report and present the recommendation to City Council at their meeting on March 2, 2021.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Shute, seconded by Commissioner Runge, to accept the Subcommittee's recommendation of The Monument of Peace and Unity.

Motion carried.

PERFORMING ART GRANT PROGRAM UPDATE:

Mr. Tymesen gave an update on the Performing Art Grant program. He stated he has been in contact with the grant recipients, and although no funds have been disbursed so far, they have started to receive the annual financials required by the grant agreements. He stated the groups can use the funds within the three-year period and mentioned the Commission may wish to extend the timeline since the rebound has not been as quick as everyone had hoped it would be. Commissioner Ryba asked if the time runs out, would they be able to do another grant program. Chairman Drake stated the current agreements could be reviewed and/or extended if needed. Mr. Tymesen mentioned the groups had been good stewards of the funds. Commissioner Shute stated she had spoken with Callie Cave to see if there was a way to light the stage at City Park, and the possibly of using it as an outdoor venue for performing arts. She mentioned renting lights and asked if this was something the Commission would like to explore. Chairman Drake said it was a great solution and she was supportive, and asked Commissioner Shute to look into it. Commissioner Shute stated she would follow up and report back to the group.

UPDATE ON "INSPIRED" PUBLIC ART SCULPTURE:

Mr. Tymesen provided an update he received by email from the artist Jason Sanchez. Mr. Sanchez provided three (3) photos along with an update of the project and stated he was hoping to have it done in March, as he has had some setbacks. Mr. Sanchez stated the project has been challenging and he has put many hours of labor into it. He said they had broken new ground and done something unique, and to rest assured he is in the final stages and very much looking forward to completion in the upcoming month.

THIRD (FOURTH) STREET GARAGE PUBLIC ART UPDATE:

Chairman Drake stated the call will close the end of February. She mentioned there were 40 applications so far, and an additional 17 of which were incomplete, and is hopeful the 17 incomplete will be able to correct their applications before the deadline. She stated there would most likely be additional submissions during the last week of the call. She said she will be putting together a selection committee and has Commissioners Shute, Sichelstiel, and Ryba so far. Commissioner Ryba will assist her in filling the selection committee. She stated once the selection committee is chosen, they would need to pick the finalists by March 12th. She would coordinate with Executive Assistant Sherrie Badertscher to schedule the meeting with the selection committee.

PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY:

Mr. Tymesen stated they received an email from Jacquelin Shapiro of the Groundswell Group who would like to dress a statue (Idaho Farmer or the like) for one day in all 50 states in conjunction with Skin Cancer Awareness Month. Mr. Tymesen read the email in its entirety and asked the Commission for their thoughts. Chairman Drake mentioned it sounded like a good idea. Meeting guest Joel (no last name given) mentioned the request sounded a little suspicious as the Groundswell group is known to be an activist group, and that they are requesting May 1st (Mayday) as the day, makes it even more so. The Commissioners took a few moments during the meeting to Google the Groundswell Group. The search resulted in many results, and it had brought up enough questions that it was felt that more research was needed. Chairman Drake stated they would do additional research of the requester, and bring the item back to the Commission at their next meeting. Council Liaison Evans requested a photo of what the statue would be dressed in be requested from the group. Commissioner Runge added to inquire into their plans and what their agenda was, and were they looking for media attention. Chairman Drake stated to send Ms. Badertscher any other requests the Commissioners may have for the Groundswell Group.

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES:

Mayor's Awards in the Arts:

Commissioner Shute stated they are looking at October 6, and she would like the nomination packets to go out by early May. She said they were celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Mayor's Awards in the Arts.

ArtCurrents:

Commissioner Runge welcomed Commissioner Mary Lee Ryba to the committee. She asked the Commissioners if they would like to keep any items in the ArtCurrents collection. Commissioner Shute and Chairman Drake stated they would like to keep "The Climb" (located on Sherman Avenue near 6th Street), and proposed purchasing it for the public art collection. Chairman Drake stated she believed the Commission budget was \$15,000, with Commissioner Shute stating the piece was listed at \$16,500, but believes the Commission would receive a 25% discount as that is the amount which usually goes to the City. Commissioner Runge stated she would make the purchase an agenda item for next month. Commissioner Shute stated she feels it is time to rotate the collection. Mr. Tymesen stated it would be a large project as there is a lot of work involved (welding, etc.) when installing or removing the art, and recommends spreading out the replacements. He suggested the call go out for the collection, but to stagger the installations over the course of a few months. Chairman Drake agreed and stated they would stagger the removal and installation dates.

Ped/Bike Brochure for Art:

Commissioner Moss stated they will be holding a meeting soon to discuss the new brochures. She said she would bring an update to the Commission next month.

Public Art Plaques:

Commissioner Shute stated they will revisit this item in the spring once the snow is gone.

OTHER UPDATES:

Commissioner Shute provided an update on the Riverstone amphitheater cover. She said they had secured a major sponsor for naming rights, and have begun working with the City on the project. She stated the potential is there for public art. Chairman Drake asked if the project was happening this summer. Commissioner Shute stated she was pushing hard to get it completed by then.

MOTION by Commissioner Bruning, seconded by Commissioner Ryba, to adjourn.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Sherrie L. Badertscher
Executive Assistant