

**ARTS COMMISSION MINUTES**  
**September 14, 2021**  
**City Hall, Conference Room #6**

**Attendees in Person:** Executive Assistant Sherrie Badertscher, Accountant Stephanie Padilla, Commissioner Mary Lee Ryba, Commissioner Bev Moss, Commissioner Jennifer Drake, Commissioner David Groth, Commissioner Teresa Runge, Commissioner John Bruning, Commissioner Mag Behrmann, City Administrator Troy Tymesen, Council Liaison Amy Evans.

**Commissioner Attendees via ZOOM:** Priscilla Bell PhD, Ali Shute

**Guest via ZOOM:** Eric Feinstein (CEO of Otocast)

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

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**MOTION:** Motion by Commissioner Bell, seconded by Commissioner Moss, to approve the July 27, 2021, minutes. **Motion carried.**

**APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT:**

**MOTION:** Motion by Commissioner Moss, seconded by Commissioner Bruning, to approve the August 2021, Financial Reports. **Motion carried.**

**COMMENTS:** Commissioner Runge stated she was moving and would regretfully have to leave the commission by the end of the year. She hopes to continue to be involved on a volunteer basis.

Vice Chairman Shute mentioned she and her husband visited the new art piece “Cor Leonis” which is located at McEuen Park, while there they spoke with some bicyclist that commented how much they loved the art piece, and commended the City for all of the public art.

**PRESENTATION ON OTOCAST LCC:** Eric Feinstein, CEO and founder of Otocast joined the meeting via Zoom and made a presentation on his Otocast software. He explained the Otocast platform was a custom audio guide, and how the guide could be custom built depending on the customer’s needs. He said it works with Bluetooth, has an application interface to build a personalized guide, and there was even a dial-up option available. He said it was GPS eccentric and would show local locations first. He explained that many of the guide features could be customized, and there were various navigation options to choose from. He said it was a free download for Apple and Android devices, and he currently has 175 cities, with 300+ guides using the application.

Commissioner Shute asked what the cost would be with Mr. Feinstein responding the average invoice he bills yearly was \$1,500, and the highest was \$6,000. He said there would be a setup fee and then the ongoing maintenance fees. He stated if the City used advertisers, it could offset the cost. Commissioner Bell asked if he would come to Coeur d'Alene and photograph all the art and then create the program, with Mr. Feinstein stating he could, but most of the art was already inventoried and they would produce the audio to go along with it. Chairman Drake stated she had downloaded the app and was impressed with the program, and thought it was a good option for the Commission. Mr. Feinstein encouraged the Commissioners to reach out to other cities who use the software as they would all be great references. Chairman Drake asked the Commissioners if they'd like to bring the item back as an action item next month to pursue the cost, with all in agreement.

**MAYOR'S AWARDS IN THE ARTS:** Vice Chairman Shute stated they had received nominations for the award categories and the nomination packets had been sent out last week to all the Commissioners for review. She asked if the student nominations period should be extended as there were no nominations received. All Commissioners were in favor of extending the nomination period for the student category and suggested it include music students as well. The Student in the Arts nominations were extended to September 28.

The Commissioners went over the nominations for the three (3) remaining categories which included: Excellence in the Arts, Support of the Arts, & Arts in Education. After discussion of the merits of each nominee, the Commissioners were unanimous with selecting the following:

- Excellence in the Arts: Jan Pellant
- Support of the Arts: Blair Williams
- Arts in Education: Kim Washko

Vice Chairman Shute asked if Jeff Crowe would be the person to contact to record and set up a PowerPoint presentation and a short video to be played during the event, with Mr. Tymesen stating he wasn't sure if Mr. Crowe was available, but Mr. Crowe would be the one to contact for those services. Commissioner Shute stated she would contact Mr. Crowe to check his availability, and also mentioned Out of the Shadows Theater would be performing during the event.

**TUBBS HILL FOUNDATION PARTNERSHIP:** Chairman Drake stated the Commission had received an email from the Tubbs Hill Foundation asking about a partnership to install a bike rack on the east side of Tubbs Hill Park. Chairman Drake asked if there was a bike rack not being utilized, or if we should move forward with a new call. Commissioner Runge stated the Library currently had two (2) racks. Chairman Drake stated she would work with the Tubbs Hill Foundation to get more information and bring it back next month as an action item. Mr. Tymesen asked if it could be taken to a tech class at the high school or college for possible collaboration. The Commissioners agreed to pursue that idea first and Mr. Tymesen stated he would contact the schools.

**UPDATE ON “INSPIRED” PUBLIC ART SCULPTURE:** Mr. Tymesen stated this was the month the piece was supposed to be installed. He said he hasn't received any further updates from the artist and would follow-up with the Commissioners when he received more information.

**4TH STREET PARKING GARAGE PUBLIC ART UPDATE:** Chairman Drake stated the selection committee met on August 10, and voted to interview the top two (2) vote receiving artist's proposals which included “Seed of Life” by Celeste Cooning, and “Lake with Osprey and White Pine” by Lydia Aldredge. Zoom interviews were conducted on August 19, and the selection committee unanimously voted for the proposal “Seed of Life” by artist Celeste Cooning. Ms. Cooning interviewed well and had researched the area, and it was felt she was knowledgeable and could bring the project to fruition.

**MOTION:** Motion by Commissioner Ryba, seconded by Commissioner Behrmann, to approve the selection committee's choice of “Seed of Life” by artist Celeste Cooning.

**REAPPOINTMENT OF BEV MOSS TO THE ARTS COMMISSION:** Chairman Drake stated Commissioner Moss's term ends on September 18, 2021, and she had agreed to serve another term if recommended.

**MOTION:** Motion by Commissioner Shute, seconded by Commissioner Groth, to recommend the reappointment of Bev Moss to the Arts Commission.

**UPDATE ON “MONUMENT TO PEACE AND UNITY”:** City Accountant Padilla updated the Commission on the progress of the Four Corner's Art Project. She said the artists were working diligently on the art piece and provided pictures of the progress, and noted the artists were having a little trouble securing a local engineer due to the everyone being extremely busy. Ms. Padilla stated she would be processing one more payment to the artist soon.

**DISCUSSION OF EAST SHERMAN AVENUE OVERPASS MURAL PROJECT:** Chairman Drake stated artist Jill McFarlane had received funding from the East Sherman Revitalization Group to complete a mural on the overpass on east Sherman. Chairman Drake asked the Commission if they would like to partner with the East Sherman Revitalization Group and contribute funding to the project. Mr. Tymesen mentioned that Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) was the agency in charge of the location and stated he could speak to the ITD Director to see if they could get the project approved. The Commissioners agreed to partner with the East Sherman Revitalization Group on the project and asked Mr. Tymesen to speak with ITD about the project. Chairman Drake said the item would be brought back next month as an action item.

#### **SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES:**

Mayor's Awards in the Arts: Council Liaison Amy Evans inquired if the in-person ceremony should be cancelled, or limit the number of attendees, due to the local hospital being in crisis mode due to the rise in COVID-Delta infections. Vice Chairman Shute stated they had many

great ideas for the event, but a major concern was keeping the community safe during the pandemic. She said the committee discussed not having Emerge attend this year which would give them the ability to spread the attendees out and provide more social distancing. She said they talked about encouraging creative masks, and asked the Commission to make the determination of whether to require masks at the event. Chairman Drake stated she was okay with a mask requirement. Vice Chairman Shute stated the first 45 minutes of the event would be the challenge as that was the social time. Commissioner Ryba asked if masks could be made available at the door. Vice Chairman Shute stated she would like to live stream the awards for those that were not able to attend. Commissioner Groth suggested asking the new Panhandle Health District (PHD) Director Mr. Duffy if there was a way to hold the event safely, and if not, the event should be cancelled. Commissioners Ryba and Bruning stated other local October events were being cancelled due to the up-tick in COVID infections and the hospital in crisis mode. Mr. Tymesen stated there were many events being cancelled due to the pandemic, and he would need to discuss whether to cancel this event with the Mayor.

ArtCurrents: Commissioner Runge stated Council had approved the Commission's 2021 ArtCurrents recommendations at their August 17 meeting. Executive Assistant Badertscher updated the Commission that she had been notified by one of the artists, Rodger Squirrel, that the art piece "Polyhelix" was no longer available as it had been loaned to another City.

Ped/Bike Brochure for Art: Commissioner Moss stated she would be finishing up the field work and get the brochure out next spring.

Private Art in the Public View: Commissioner Behrman stated she had the pictures ready and would send them along with the artists names to Commission Liaison Badertscher.

Storm Drain Art: Commissioner Groth stated the invoices would be forthcoming from Sorenson and Winton Elementary Schools for their completed storm drain art projects.

**MOTION:** Motion by Commissioner Moss, seconded by Commissioner Ryba, to adjourn.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 5:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Sherrie L. Badertscher  
Executive Assistant