

**ARTS COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
May 28, 2024  
City Hall, Conference Room #6**

**Attendees:** Chairman Mary Lee Ryba (attended online), Vice Chairman Abby Light, Commissioner John Bruning, Commissioner Charlotte Doutriaux, Commissioner Alesa Momerak, Commissioner Katie Linder, Commissioner Summer Ward, Commissioner Sally Shortridge, Commissioner Adeline Smith, City Administrator Troy Tymesen, Council Liaison Amy Evans, and City Accountant Stephanie Padilla.

**Guests:** Melissa Cole and Jacob Garringer.

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

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

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There were none.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MOTION:** Motion by Commissioner Shortridge, seconded by Commissioner Linder, to approve the March 26, 2024 minutes. **Motion carried.**

**APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT: MOTION:** Motion by Commissioner Momerak, seconded by Commissioner Light, to approve the April 2024 Financial Reports. **Motion carried.**

**COMMISSIONER/ STAFF COMMENTS:** Chair Ryba congratulated Commissioner Ward for her published book entitled “Huckleberry Hill – A Children’s Board Book.” Commissioner Ward shared that after having her daughter, she came up with this artistic project which is her first children's book. She said that right now she is doing a kick starter launch but she is hoping to get into local libraries. She added that the book will be available for sale by late summer through her business.

**AWTF BIOGAS FLAME PROJECT – GREEN ENERGY DRAGON:** Commissioner Momerak introduced the selected artist for the Advanced Wastewater Treatment Facility (AWTF) Biogas Flame project. Melissa Cole presented her plans for the “Green Energy Dragon” artwork. Ms. Cole thanked the Commission for being chosen for the AWTF project. She said that she has worked all over the Pacific Northwest and is currently doing a project in California. She shared that her background is zoology and environmental education. She explained that her dragon design is inspired by the shape of the biogas flare infrastructure and because 2024 is the Chinese Year of the Dragon. Ms. Cole stated that she will be working with a welder to create the metal part of the structure while she does the coloration. She explained that the “Green Energy Dragon” sculpture will be made up of several components that will allow access to the biogas flare infrastructure by the AWTF staff. She stated that the body of the dragon will be made up of two sculptural walls – the side facing the plant will be constructed of steel tubing and metal expansion sheeting colored iridescent green with auto paint, while the side facing the Centennial Trail will mimic the form of

the metal dragon body and will be constructed of sculpted concrete and embellished using glass mosaic and epoxy grout with designs depicting the production of biogas. She added that the dragon sculpture will be installed on top of a concrete pad which will be embellished with glass mosaic on the outside. She mentioned that she uses recycled glass from windshields and water bottles because the color goes all the way through, it doesn't fade, and there will be no problems during winter. She added that she will be working with the Coeur d'Alene Boys and Girls Club in the fabrication of mosaic elements resembling the chemical reaction from anaerobic bacteria turning into methane and becoming biogas. For the dragon's head, Ms. Cole explained that it will be made up of stainless-steel sculpture encompassing the biogas flume barrel. She said that it will be decorated with high fire ceramic paint like a barbeque grill that is capable of withstanding high temperatures of the biogas flame. She stated that today, she received the paperwork from the engineer who designed the footing on both sides where the dragon will be attached. She added that she is working on engineering and building permits and hopes to get the project done by October.

Commissioner Momerak asked if the head of the dragon can be detached, and Ms. Cole replied that it is possible because it will have little slots. Mr. Tymesen mentioned that the City collects glass which may need cleaning, but it may be useful in Ms. Cole's project. Ms. Cole stated that she can possibly use that in the actual footing when they do the patterns. Commissioner Momerak asked how Ms. Cole went into the arts after having a degree in Zoology. Ms. Cole narrated that she has done art her whole life. She said that she was in the Peace Corps and was doing murals for schools in the Dominican Republic. She stated that she earned a degree in science and ended up writing children's books on natural history. She shared that her husband is an underwater photographer and she started painting while they were on trips. From then on, she slowly built a career in art doing murals, mosaics, and public art. Chair Ryba thanked Ms. Cole and stated that the Commission will schedule visits to the AWTF project while she works on it to take photos of the progress and share posts on social media.

**REVISIONS ON THE CONTRACT WITH EMERGE:** City Accountant Stephanie Padilla noted that Emerge CDA requested to amend the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Arts Commission to revise the dollar amount of scholarships of students for art classes. She explained that in Article 2, instead of \$75 to \$125 per student, Emerge requested that the scholarship be increased up to \$250. She added that the last class that they did was for a pottery class, and they asked for \$165. Mr. Tymesen stated that this is being brought back to the Commission because of the significant change in the amount. He said that the increase would be for participating in camps, which was never discussed during the negotiations. He added that even the \$165 amount was not mentioned when he sat down with Emerge about the MOU. Ms. Padilla pointed out that the budget will continue to be limited to \$25,000, however increasing the amount to \$165 will mean 50 fewer students will be able to benefit from the program. She stated that Emerge should explain their process regarding the application and who gets awarded to ensure that a student is not given the funding twice. She added that Emerge seems to be changing its business model to summer camps. Mr. Tymesen suggested that Emerge will be paid the maximum amount of \$125 per student as stated in the current MOU and then they will be requested to come forward for presentation and discussion before the Commission decides on their request for amendments in the MOU. Chair Ryba stated that this will be tabled and a representative from Emerge will be

invited to the next Arts Commission meeting.

**CREATION OF SUBCOMMITTEE FOR SOCIAL MEDIA:** Chair Ryba shared that she met with Vice Chair Light and Commissioner Sichelstiel, and they agreed to have a subcommittee for social media to promote the Arts Commission projects. She explained that they want to propose this and see who would like to be a member. She added that Commissioner Sichelstiel stated that she is willing to serve as chairwoman. Vice Chair Light mentioned that this would be a great way to promote the Arts Commission and to serve as venue to highlight the Otocast Audio Art App, art projects, and possible collaboration with other cities. Commissioner Ward mentioned that this subcommittee will be working alongside the city's social media pages.

**MOTION:** Motion by Vice Chair Light, seconded by Commissioner Shortridge, to approve the creation of Subcommittee for social media. All in favor. **Motion carried.**

**CREATION OF SUBCOMMITTEE FOR ARTS COMMISSION HISTORY:** Chair Ryba noted that in the upcoming Mayor's Awards in the Arts, there will be a presentation on the history of the Arts Commission. As such, she stated that they would like to form a subcommittee for this project. She mentioned that Commissioner Walker and herself will be on this subcommittee and she asked who would like to join the team. She added that the history will also be posted to the city's website.

**MOTION:** Motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Momerak, to approve the creation of Subcommittee for Arts Commission History. All in favor. **Motion carried.**

### **SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES:**

Mayor's Awards in the Arts: Chair Ryba shared that the subcommittee met on May 13, and they have established the date for the Mayor's Awards in the Arts on October 9, 2024, at the Hagadone Events Center. She stated that Mayor Hammond confirmed to attend which is important because last year, he nominated Ignite CDA for a special award. This year Ignite CDA will be acknowledged for their tremendous contributions to the Arts Commission. She mentioned that the nomination period for the four awards has changed from previous years and is currently posted as open from May 15, 2024 to August 30, 2024. She added that the guidelines, recording of last year's event, and the past recipients are posted to the city website. Chair Ryba mentioned that a press release for a call for nominations was issued on May 15 and was published in the CDA Press on May 16. She asked Commissioner Doutriaux to join the subcommittee.

ArtCurrents: Chair Ryba stated that the call for artists went live on the café website on May 8 and will end on July 1, 2024. She mentioned that a press release was issued on May 8 and was published on May 9. She added that the Selection Committee will meet on July 8. Chair Ryba said that she will reach out to a Councilmember who can possibly join the said Committee.

Otocast Audio Art Tour Guide: Chair Ryba said that they will have a meeting on June 3. Commissioner Linder shared information on the usage of the app which showed a spike of use during the launch in summer and then declined possibly due to the weather. She noted that the

analytics also presents how many times the people have interacted with a particular public art piece. She added that they intend to discuss marketing the Otocast Audio Art Tour Guide in their next meeting. Vice Chair Light suggested that they work with the Subcommittee on social media to expand the reach.

Performing Arts: Commissioner Ward shared the following events: Music on Mondays in McEuen Park starting June 24; Harrison Summer Concerts starting June 1<sup>st</sup>; and Shakespeare Coeur d'Alene will present the Midsummer Night's Dream on June 20-22 at the Riverstone Amphitheater.

Community Arts: Vice Chair Light mentioned the following events: Pride in the Park on June 1; special Art Walk on Saturday, June 15 after the Car d' Lane Classic Car Show; and CDA Summer Theater on June 28 featuring Fiddler on the Roof. She added that before the Shakespeare Coeur d'Alene performance at Riverstone, they will give a shout out to the Arts Commission during the opening announcements. Chair Ryba stated that it would be good to have one of the actors from Shakespeare Coeur d'Alene to come and read a poem at the next meeting.

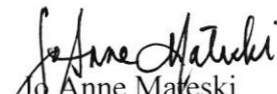
Budget: Chair Ryba requested to add Vice Chair Light to the Budget Subcommittee. She added that the subcommittee will meet with Ms. Padilla on the budget in June.

Poet Laureate: Chair Ryba stated that Commissioner Shortridge is the chair of this subcommittee. Commissioner Shortridge shared that they had a meeting on April 29 and those present were Library Director Michael Priest, Mr. Jacob Garringer, Ms. Padilla, and herself. She stated that they have agreed that this project will be called "Coeur d'Alene Poet Laureate," and they would like that the selected Poet Laureate would be provided with a \$1,500 per year stipend for a 3-year period. The Poet Laureate, among other duties, will submit two original written pieces each year. She added that the Poet Laureate will present at several important events including the Mayor's Awards in the Arts, Council meeting invocation, and events at the Library during April Poetry Month. Finally, she said that they will have a meeting on June 10 to discuss the next steps. Chair Ryba mentioned that Roger Dunsmore, who is a well-known poet in the inland northwest, will attend the meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT: MOTION:** Motion by Commissioner Light, seconded by Commissioner Momerak, to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. **Motion carried.**

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting ended at 4:55p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

  
Jo Anne Mateski  
Executive Assistant