

**ARTS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
September 10, 2024
City Hall, Conference Room #6**

Attendees: Chairman Mary Lee Ryba, Vice-Chair Abby Light, Commissioner Summer Ward, Commissioner Sally Shortridge, Commissioner Lindsey Sichelstiel, Commissioner Kate Walker (attended online), Commissioner Adeline Smith, Commissioner Chuck Ethridge, Commissioner Charlotte Doutriaux, and City Administrator Troy Tymesen,

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

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION: None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Ethridge, seconded by Commissioner Doutriaux, to approve the August 27, 2024 minutes. All in favor. **Motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT: City Administrator Tymesen noted the following updates: no expenses for the month of August under Public Art Fund-Ignite-Fund 076; \$22.13 was spent from the Art Maintenance – Fund 077 to light up the artwork at Northwest Blvd.; and then under Public Art Funds would be the installment payments made for the Green Energy Dragon art project at the Wastewater Treatment Facility. He mentioned that staff is working on information regarding Sid Frederickson’s legacy and capture what he did for the City since the Green Energy Dragon will be named after him. Chair Ryba shared that she is in touch with the artist, Melissa Cole, and the artwork project is moving along and the dedication will be end of October or mid-November this year. Mr. Tymesen stated that Mr. Frederickson’s family will be invited to the dedication ceremony.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Light, to approve the August 2024 Financial Reports. All in favor. **Motion carried.**

COMMISSIONER/ STAFF COMMENTS: Commissioner Doutriaux shared that her husband is part of the NoID Film Festival happening on September 26-28 at Regal Riverstone. She invited everyone to get the word out. Tickets can be purchased at their website www.noidff.com. Chair Ryba asked Commissioner Doutriaux to send the flyer to Ms. Mateski so she can share it with the Commissioners.

Mr. Tymesen stated that Councilmember Evans apologized for her absence due to an unplanned trip. He mentioned that the Arts Commission items such as the final design of the Library Lower-Level Art Project, purchase of the O’Keefe 8 artwork, and appointment of Jennifer Passaro as Coeur d’Alene Poet Laureate were presented at the GS/PW Committee meeting on September 9

and will be taken to Council under Consent Calendar on September 17. He made a follow-up on the thank you letter for Commissioners Bruning, Drake, and Linder, with Chair Ryba responding that a letter will be drafted for signature of the new Mayor.

Chair Ryba stated that she has not talked to the museum regarding the George Carlson sculpture, and she would like to table this for further discussion. She mentioned that there is another request from Art Spirit to purchase artwork for the library. She stated that she does not want to set this pattern in the future. Chair Ryba said that Bill Bulley wrote an article about the Gaia sculpture by Dale Young. She mentioned that if the City bought the said artwork next year, Mr. Young would sell it at a lower price of \$25,000. She shared that former Mayor Steve Widmyer, who is on the Museum of North Idaho Board, relayed that they would like to put a historical clock at the elevator shaft of the museum and will request the Arts Commission for funding.

SELECTION AND APPROVAL OF THE MAYOR'S AWARDS IN THE ARTS

RECIPIENTS: Chairman Ryba stated that the Patron of the Arts award will be honoring ignite cda in recognition of their many years of support to the arts in Coeur d'Alene. The Commissioners went over the nominations for the following categories: Excellence in the Arts, Support of the Arts, Arts in Education, and Student Excellence in the Arts. The Commissioners discussed each nomination and their merits. Commissioners voted by secret ballot and the following were selected:

- Excellence in the Arts – Lorna Hamilton
- Support of the Arts – Greg & Phebe Washington
- Arts in Education – Roger Dunsmore
- Student Excellence in the Arts – Mariel Palmer-Kamprath

Chair Ryba stated that for next year, it would be good to categorize Student Excellence in the Arts to Student Excellence in the Performing Arts and then Student Excellence in the Visual Arts.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Ethridge, seconded by Commissioner Shortridge, to approve the selected recipients of the Mayor's Awards in the Arts and to recognize ignite cda with a Patron of the Arts award. All in favor. **Motion carried.**

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Mayor's Awards in the Arts: Chair Ryba asked the Commissioners to assist in decorating the venue for the October 9 event. She said that the theme would be candle lights and the performers include Aspire Theatre, Northern Dance Academy, the brass quintet of the CDA Symphony, and Jennifer Passaro will be inducted as the City of Coeur d'Alene's inaugural Poet Laureate followed by a poetry reading. For the visual arts, the maquettes will be displayed including the Green Energy Dragon, sculptor Cheryl Metcalf will create art in real time and Emerge art students will display their art. Commissioner Summer Ward will sing the national anthem and Commissioner Doutriaux will do the photography. Commissioner Light is also working on a powerpoint presentation. Katie Linder is doing the invitations and program for free.

Chair Ryba asked the Commissioners to present the awards. Commissioner Sichelstiel will present the Student Excellence in the Arts and Arts in Education award. Commissioner Ethridge will present the Support of the Arts and Excellence in the Arts award. The Patron of the Arts Award will be presented by Councilmember Kiki Miller.

ArtCurrents: Chair Ryba mentioned that Michael Dunton relayed that he sold his artwork “Coeur d’Maison” but he has another art piece (“Sway”) that was selected and will be installed.

Arts Commission Applicant Review: Chair Ryba stated that the applications will be reviewed after the Mayor’s Awards in the Arts event. She asked the Commissioners if they know anyone interested in applying, especially if it’s an architect, someone who can do marketing, an accountant, or someone from the school district or from NIC. There are currently three vacancies in the Arts Commission.

Visual & Performing Arts: Commissioner Ward shared that the summer outdoor concert series is wrapping up. Commissioner Ethridge stated that a lot of theatrical performances begin for the season, and they are into their annual fundraiser at the end of the month. Aspire is beginning their “Into the Woods” soon. Lake City Playhouse is opening Jekyll and Hyde soon. Coeur d’Alene Shakespeare is doing Macbeth and there is another going on at Spokane. Commissioner Light shared that there will be an Art Walk this Friday in partnership with the Companion Animal Center and there will be dogs for adoption outside of eight locations.

Marketing & Technology: Commissioner Sichelstiel stated that they will set up a meeting soon to get the announcements out. Chair Ryba suggested posting photos from the Mayor’s Awards in the Arts and also look into representing arts nonprofits on the city website as a resource.

Arts Commission History: Chair Ryba stated that they want to add the history of the Arts Commission to the website page.

Wastewater Treatment Facility Art Project: Chair Ryba shared the email from Melissa Cole stating that she finished the last two mosaic panels and Brad is almost done with the body of the dragon. Melissa will be painting the body and work on the spine. Brad started working on the head and Melissa will paint it. Installation is scheduled around October 18 or more likely mid-November. Footing will be poured after the building permit is worked out. Ms. Cole invited the Commissioners to see the progress of the project.

Children’s Library Entrance Art Project: This is in the Council’s September 17 meeting agenda.

Poet Laureate: Commissioner Shortridge shared that they met with Jennifer Passaro on September 3, and she was asked to submit her deliverables as the Poet Laureate for the next three years.

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

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting ended at 5:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Jo Anne Mateski
Executive Assistant