

**ARTS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
November 26, 2024
City Hall, Conference Room #6**

Attendees: Chairman Mary Lee Ryba, Vice-Chair Abby Light, Commissioner Summer Ward, Commissioner Sally Shortridge, Commissioner Kate Walker, Commissioner Alesa Momerak, Commissioner Chuck Ethridge, Commissioner Charlotte Doutriaux, Commissioner Nora Crabtree, and Troy Tymesen.

Guest: Mayor Woody McEvers.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Ryba called the meeting to order. She welcomed Mayor Woody McEvers and invited him to ask questions and share his thoughts.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION: Commissioner Ward stated that she will be leaving early.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Ethridge, seconded by Commissioner Shortridge, to approve the October 22, 2024 minutes. All in favor. **Motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT: Chair Ryba shared that she met with Finance Director Katie Ebner on October 31 regarding the art funds. She explained that Director Ebner's presentation will be moved to the January 28, 2025 meeting so she can present and explain the financial statements in person. Chair Ryba added that she also asked ignite cda Chair Scott Hoskins to present about the Public Art Fund provided by ignite.

Mr. Tymesen explained the September 2024 year end transfers and October 2024 Financial Reports. He stated that Fund 076 would be the urban renewal fund from ignite which is being invested on behalf of the Arts Commission. Interest income for September 2024 is \$904.95 for the Lake District and \$1,135.81 for the River District. The year end transfer from ignite-River District is \$17,251.00. He stressed that these funds should be spent in the geographical location of those districts such as paying for the Sid Green Energy Dragon that would be installed at the Advanced Wastewater Treatment Facility. Mr. Tymesen stated that Fund 077 is intended for public art maintenance. He explained that the City has an ordinance that 15% of the value of art should be dedicated towards maintenance. By the end of September, the total fund for art maintenance is \$181,607.09. The expense for September 2024 is \$27.62 for the lighting of the art at Northwest Boulevard. Fund 074 - Public Art Fund revenue comes from projects that the city does above ground such as buildings. For this year, the \$27,240.93 funding came from the wastewater building expansion. Mr. Tymesen said that Director Ebner will discuss Fund 074 further in the January meeting.

Commissioner Light inquired if the maintenance fund can be allocated for something else with

Mr. Tymesen explaining that it would be difficult to do so because it may happen someday that there will not be enough cash to offset or there will be no revenues. He added that the insurance company keeps raising the deductible which is now \$10,000 for damaged art. Commissioner Ethridge asked for a potential amount that the Arts Commission can spend on a given year with Chair Ryba responding that it will be Public Art Fund 074 unless the art will be located in the River District. Mr. Tymesen added that the budget allocation for expenditures under this fund would need authority from Council.

Chair Ryba asked the Commissioners to look at the financial reports in preparation for the presentation of Director Ebner and Chair Hoskins in January. She mentioned that in the last meeting, she enumerated the various requests for funding and partnerships that were received by the Arts Commission, one of which was the request of former Mayor Steve Widmyer for the funding of a historical clock for the museum. Mr. Tymesen stated that it should be original art.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Light, seconded by Commissioner Ethridge, to approve the September 2024 year end transfers and October 2024 Financial Reports. All in favor. **Motion carried.**

CREATION OF A SUB-COMMITTEE FOR GUIDELINES DEVELOPMENT AND SUB-COMMITTEE FOR EMERGE ART SCHOLARSHIPS:

Chair Ryba explained that in the last meeting, it was requested to create a Subcommittee for Guidelines Development. **MOTION:** Motion by Commissioner Ward, seconded by Commissioner Walker, to approve the creation of a Subcommittee for Guidelines Development. All in favor. **Motion carried.**

Chair Ryba stated that Emerge Executive Director Jeni Hegsted submitted a request for modification of the on-going scholarship program for youth, hence it is proposed to have a Subcommittee for Emerge Art Scholarships. **MOTION:** Motion by Commissioner Light, seconded by Commissioner Walker, to approve the creation of a Subcommittee for Emerge Art Scholarships. All in favor. **Motion carried.**

RECOMMENDATION OF APPOINTMENT TO THE ARTS COMMISSION: Chair Ryba stated that the Subcommittee on Arts Commission Applicant Review met on November 7 to interview three applicants and decided to recommend Ms. Tracey Benson for consideration of appointment to the Arts Commission. She shared that Ms. Benson is currently a Language Arts Instructor at the CDA Charter Academy. She was the Executive Director of Coeur d'Alene Summer Theatre from March 2016 – June 2020 and Executive Artistic Director of the Lake City Playhouse from June 2004 – August 2006. Her education positions in the past were as Adjunct Professor at Gonzaga University, Instructor at North Idaho College, and Graduate Teaching Assistant at University of Idaho in Moscow. She is a graduate of MFA – Theatre and Film and a BS in Theatre, English at the University of Idaho. Her affiliations include CDA Chamber of Commerce Leadership Class of 2023; Executive Board Member of Kroc Center CDA; and CDA Rotary Club. Commissioner Light shared that Ms. Benson is passionate about joining the Arts

Commission, has a lot of experience in the arts community, and would be a good fit to the Commission. Commissioner Ethridge stated that they went to graduate school together and he strongly recommends Ms. Benson. Commissioner Ward stated that Ms. Benson has good character and will be a great addition to the Arts Commission.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Ethridge, seconded by Commissioner Ward, to recommend to the Council the appointment of Tracey Benson to the Arts Commission. All in favor. **Motion carried.**

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES:

Coeur d'Alene Arts Awards: Chair Ryba noted that the Subcommittee met early November to do a recap of the Mayor's Awards in the Arts event and came up with 20 good suggestions that they will take into consideration for next year's event.

Visual & Performing Arts: Commissioner Ward shared that there are a number of holiday performances coming up such as the CDA Symphony and CDA Library holding Sunday Serenades. Chair Ryba mentioned that The Sound of Christmas starring Jenny Shotwell and family will start on November 29. Commissioner Ethridge stated that there will be a lot of holiday related shows such as in schools and NIC Christmas Spectacular. He shared that his organization is building one of their warehouse spaces into a 50-60 seats black box theater to create another performance venue in town.

Marketing & Technology: Chair Ryba said that the Subcommittee met on November 4. Commissioner Light shared that they started the social media page and compared what the Arts and Cultural Alliance post about with what the Arts Commission web page has, and it is mostly about public art. She invited everyone to post and share about public art.

New Member Training/ Policies: Chair Ryba said that each Subcommittee will come up with templates.

Wastewater Treatment Facility Art Project: Chair Ryba stated that the installation was delayed due to incorrect height of the concrete pads hence the need to relocate the gas pipes. She mentioned that the Sid Frederickson bio was written by John Bruning. Commissioner Momerak will book the dedication event for January.

Children's Library Entrance Art Project: Chair Ryba shared that the unveiling of the art project was held on November 14. Chair Ryba with Commissioners Light, Walker, Ethridge, and Momerak attended the event.

Poet Laureate: Commissioner Shortridge said that they will meet with Poet Laureate Jennifer Passaro to discuss her schedule for next year.

Guidelines Development: Chair Ryba stated that the Subcommittee met on November 4 and would like to have the presentation on the funding before further discussion on the guidelines. They will

meet again in February.

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

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting ended at 4:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Jo Anne Mateski
Executive Assistant