

ARTS COMMISSION MINUTES
January 28, 2020
City Hall, Conference Room #6

Attendees: Amy Ferguson, John Bruning, Teresa Runge, Troy Tymesen, Mary Lee Ryba, Mag Behrmann, Jennifer Drake, Derek Kahler, Bev Moss, Amy Evans, Alyssa Livingston (Student Representative), Zoey Hart (Alternate Student Rep), Lindsey Sichelstiel

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

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION: There were none.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were none.

REVIEW/CORRECTIONS/APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Ms. Ferguson mentioned that Commissioner Shute had emailed in a typographical correction to the minutes.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Bruning, seconded by Commissioner Ryba, to approve the November, 2019 minutes, as corrected. Motion carried.

REVIEW/CORRECTIONS/APPROVAL OF CURRENT FINANCIAL REPORT:
Commissioner Moss asked about the Financial Report and what the commissioners should be looking for and what is most important. Chairman Drake said that the report shows what has been paid from the Arts Commission funds. She encouraged the commissioners to bring up any questions or concerns that they have regarding the Financial Report.

Commissioner Ryba asked when the Lake District would close. Mr. Tymesen responded that it will close in 2021/22. Chairman Drake commented that even when the district sunsets, the commission will retain the money that is already in the Lake District fund. Mr. Tymesen explained that there is a River District and also a new Atlas District that has no increment yet and they expect that it will probably be at least two years out, but it is a potential funding source for public art. Chairman Drake explained that any funds received from an urban renewal district have to be utilized for public art located in that district.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Moss, seconded by Commissioner Behrman, to approve the December, 2019 Financial Report. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:
Chairman Drake welcomed new Arts Commissioner, Lindsey Sichelstiel. Commissioner Sichelstiel said that she grew up here and is happy to be a member of the commission. Chairman Drake encouraged her to dive right in and learn on the go, and if she has any questions, to just ask.

STAFF COMMENTS: There were none.

UPDATE ON ARTCURRENTS BROCHURES:

Ms. Ferguson explained that the new ArtCurrents brochures have been received, and noted that she destroyed quite a few of the brochures that were printed a couple of years ago as they had not been distributed. She asked for assistance from the commissioners to distribute the new brochures, and to keep the brochure locations stocked. Commissioner Ryba volunteered to spearhead and coordinate the distribution of the brochures. Councilmember Evans commented that in the past the Ped/Bike Committee was also willing to help distribute the brochures.

REAPPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONER TERESA RUNGE:

Commissioner Runge indicated that she would like to be reappointed to the Arts Commission.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Kahler, seconded by Commissioner Bruning, to recommend the reappointment of Teresa Runge to the Arts Commission. Motion carried.

PINKERTON GALLERY PROPOSAL RE: “UNCONQUERED” STATUE:

Mr. Tymesen introduced Dan and Katherine Pinkerton and noted that they are great business people in the community, founders of the Idaho Wildlife Museum and Heritage Investment Holdings, and own a building in Riverstone called Pinkerton Retirement.

Mr. Pinkerton commented that he appreciates the work that the Arts Commission does and Coeur d’Alene has some of the most gorgeous artwork he has seen in any city. They have over 200 bronze wildlife statues, most of which are life-size bronzes located at the Idaho Wildlife Museum, and another 20 sculptures on the exterior of the building, with some being even farther away from the building than Marker #11, which was located 20 feet from their office. Mr. Pinkerton noted that in November, someone came in to their office very upset and accusing them of being communists and promoting communism in North Idaho by putting the Marker #11 sculpture right by their office. He didn’t think anything about the sculpture, other than it was a historical piece about coal. It was a surprise to see the Coeur d’Alene Press put the symbol on their front page. When Marker #11 was taken down, Mr. Pinkerton said that he and Katherine thought that there was a sculpture that they would love to be placed in that location, which complements the sculptures around their building.

Mr. Pinkerton said that the first option would be to purchase the piece of property that Marker #11 used to sit on so that the Idaho Wildlife Museum can place an original Lorenzo Ghilieri bronze sculpture of a grizzly bear titled “Unconquered,” valued at \$250,000, in that location, as a loan. Mr. Pinkerton noted that, with any piece of art, someone will find something about it that they don’t like. He commented that the sculptor is the fourth of five generations of sculptors, going back to Italy. The grizzly is about the same size as Marker #11. Because of the weight of the statue, they would need to create a concrete base to make sure that it is well-installed. They are happy to cover all of the costs related to the installation.

Chairman Drake said that she thinks it is a gorgeous piece, and when the proposal was first sent to her, she was in awe that Mr. and Mrs. Pinkerton would be willing to do that. She noted that it is more a question to the City of how the land issue would be dealt with, either through the

purchase of the land, or a permanent loan of the art piece as proposed in the second option with the City retaining the land.

Mr. Tymesen asked about possible tax advantages that the City could assist with. He noted that cities don't normally get rid of land very easily. Mr. Pinkerton responded that a trade would probably be a lot easier than a purchase, and their concept is that things could change in the future where City might want the land for something other than a sculpture, and in that event they could just return the statue to the Pinkertons.

Councilmember Evans commented that last summer Dan and Katherine Pinkerton hosted an event for the Idaho Youth Ranch, and many sculptures were auctioned off to benefit the ranch. She noted that the pieces are amazing, and said that the Pinkerton's generosity throughout the community is broad and they have helped many nonprofits. Chairman Drake agreed and commented that she applauded the Pinkertons and appreciated the effort they put into their proposal.

Commissioner Moss said that the Pinkerton's offer harkens back to the time when they used to say that Coeur d'Alene was good at making lemonade out of lemons, and that she thinks it is a positive thing.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Runge, seconded by Commissioner Moss, that the commission recommend acceptance of "Unconquered" as an "art on loan" addition to the City of Coeur d'Alene public art collection. Motion carried.

Mr. Tymesen said that he will work out the details and agreement with the Pinkertons. Chairman Drake said that at some point she would like to have a dedication of the piece. Mr. Pinkerton said that they will include with the installation a marker that describes the piece.

UPDATED ON "INSPIRED" PUBLIC ART SCULPTURE:

Mr. Tymesen provided an update on the "Inspired" public art sculpture, and pictures from Mr. Sanchez. He noted that the piece has not been powder coated at this point, but the welding has been doublechecked and it is being done very well. Mr. Sanchez had a certified welder do some of the major structural pieces. Mr. Tymesen commented that he will continue to work with the artist for completion of the piece, but at this point the artist does not have a completion date.

MURAL FESTIVAL UPDATE:

Commissioner Kahler said that he met with Scott Lakey, and that Mr. Lakey is back and forth to California setting up an Arco Lab in Pismo Beach. Mr. Lakey and Arco Lab are putting together a flyer to take to businesses in the downtown and midtown area that Mr. Lakey has personal connections with, explaining what they want to do and getting approvals from the business owners. They are thinking they want to start with around ten walls. Once everything is approved for the walls, then they can get going with dates, artists, sponsorships, etc.

Commissioner Kahler said that he should know more probably by the end of the week, and he will update the commissioners. He noted that the idea behind the mural festival is that it would

be an annual event where the murals on the walls would change. He commented that it is kind of an appealing thing for the building owners and the public as well, and they could possibly develop some type of theme. Commissioner Kahler said that he was thinking they should hold the event in the summer, possibly in coordination with another event. He noted that a lot of artists have expressed interest in the project.

TDS BOX WRAPS REQUEST:

Mr. Tymesen said that TDS has approached the City because they like the utility box wrapping program and asked if they could be a party. They have approximately six boxes ready to go that they would like to start with. TDS will pay for the wrapping and they would prefer to be part of the Arts Commission's program of selecting the artists/artwork.

Commissioner Ryba asked how many total boxes would TDS want wrapped. Mr. Tymesen said that he didn't know at this time.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Runge, seconded by Commissioner Bruning, to accept the offer of TDS to participate in the Arts Commission Utility Box Beautification program, with an initial six boxes. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE AMENDMENT RE: COUNCIL APPROVAL OF PUBLIC ART:

Mr. Tymesen presented a proposed Arts Commission ordinance amendment to the commission, and noted that Council has not seen the proposed changes yet. It is an opportunity to review the ordinance for continuous improvement in regard to the approval of public art in the city. Mr. Tymesen noted that, in the past, it has not been clear as to how ArtCurrents pieces are approved. The goal is to clarify that the Council ultimately approves any actions of the commission, including ArtCurrents pieces and the proposed "Unconquered" art on loan recommendation. He noted that the language in the ordinance is being added for clarity and doesn't limit the types of art that could be recommended by the commission. He further explained that the ordinance amendment is not intended to take anything away from the commission.

Discussion ensued regarding the removal of Marker #11, the lack of full Council input regarding the decision to remove the statue, and lack of notice to the commission. Councilmember Evans noted that she spent a lot of time thinking about the proposed amendment and believes that it still allows for some reasonableness; however, she is still concerned about censorship and the perception of the City censoring art. Chairman Drake noted that most of the parameters set forth in the amendment are already set forth in the calls to artists. Councilmember Evans said that because the information is contained in the calls to artists, stating it again in the ordinance protects the commission from the accusation of censoring art. It was agreed that the proposed language in the ordinance regarding "substantial public controversy" should be removed as it is redundant and subjective.

Chairman Drake said that the vast majority of the ordinance changes are things that the commission already does, and so she is okay with it. She also noted that the onus will fall upon the Council as well for extra oversight.

Chairman Drake asked for wording in the ordinance that if the Council deems that something is inappropriate, that it would come back to the Arts Commission, or that the Arts Commission be notified. Mr. Tymesen commented that the goal is not to have to censor because it would follow the process, and as long as the art work was approved by the Council, the Council would own the decision.

Mr. Tymesen said that he will work on the language in the ordinance. Councilmember Evans said that she would bring it up under Council comments that the Arts Commission is currently reviewing amendments to the arts ordinance.

UPDATE ON APPOINTMENT OF IGNITE REPRESENTATIVE TO ARTS COMMISSION:

Mr. Tymesen said that ignite is still providing a liaison to the Arts Commission (Sarah Garcia), but she just won't be at every one of the commission meetings.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Utility Box Beautification – Commissioner Moss said that the selection committee will be meeting on February 12th at 3:30 p.m. Councilmember McEvers will serve on the committee and, in addition, Commissioner Moss' 9-year-old granddaughter will also serve on the committee.

Arts Commission Applicant Review – Chairman Drake said that newly appointed commissioner, Dr. Priscilla Bell, is concerned having to miss four meetings, and so Chairman Drake told her that she would bring it up at the meeting. Chairman Drake said that, in her opinion, Commissioner Bell is still a really great member to have on board and she is still available via email, etc. Commissioner Ryba asked about any rules or regulations regarding attendance. Chairman Drake said that there is something in their public arts policy about unexcused absences. It was agreed that Commissioner Bell can continue to serve on the commission.

4-Corners Entrance – Chairman Drake noted that the subcommittee did not meet. Commissioner Bruning said that he will work on getting the call to artists going.

ADJOURNMENT: MOTION by Commissioner Moss, seconded by Commissioner Bruning, to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Amy Ferguson
Executive Assistant