

ARTS COMMISSION MINUTES
October 22, 2019

Attendees: Amy Ferguson, John Bruning, Ali Shute, Teresa Runge, Troy Tymesen, David Groth, ~~Sarah Garcia~~, Mary Lee Ryba, Mag Behrmann, Jennifer Drake, Derek Kahler, ~~Bev Moss~~
~~Amy Evans~~, Alyssa Livingston, Zoey Hart

Guests: Bette Ammon, Library Director

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

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION: There were none.

REVIEW/CORRECTIONS/APPROVAL OF MINUTES: **Motion by Commissioner Shute, seconded by Commissioner Runge, to approve the minutes of September 10, 2019. Motion carried.**

FINANCIAL REPORT: **Motion by Commissioner Runge, seconded by Commissioner Bruning, to approve the September, 2019 Finance Report. Motion carried.**

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS: There were none.

STAFF COMMENTS:

Mr. Tymesen said that the former ArtCurrents piece known as “Untitled” by artist Donald Cadden is being offered for sale by his estate. He noted that if the commission was interested in the purchase, it would be placed as an action item on next month’s agenda. The original price of the statue was \$13,000, and if it had sold while in the ArtCurrents program, the artist would have received \$9,750, with the city receiving a 25% commission. After negotiation, the estate representative, Val Kuntz, has indicated that they would be willing to reduce the price of the statue to \$7,100, which is about 45% off of the original asking price. The statue is currently in storage at the Street shop. Mr. Tymesen noted that the statue has been on display for over 3 years and has held up well. The commission expressed interest in purchasing the statue and the request will be placed on next month’s agenda.

Commissioner Groth asked how much money was in the Arts Commission budget for acquisitions. Mr. Tymesen responded that there is about \$200,000 in the Lake District fund. Commissioner Groth said that it might be nice to have a little history on the statue. Commissioner Shute said that she would find out the history of the piece and report at the next meeting. She noted that she loves the shape and feel of the piece, and the blue color. She further commented that her mother, who is an artist in Philadelphia, told her that out of all of the pieces she has seen on Sherman Avenue, she thought it was the best one.

Mr. Tymesen gave kudos to the commission for the Mayor’s Awards in the Arts and noted that they had converted a councilmember to be a bigger fan of the arts than he has been in his 15 years on the council.

Ms. Ferguson provided an update to the commission on the Stump Art as depicted on the website and noted that the Raccoon stump art has rotted out and the Parks Department cut out a couple of the raccoons and hung them on the pavilion in City Park. The Bear & Cubs stump art is also rotted out, along with the Dove & Cross. The Soaring Ravens stump art fixture has been removed and is in the Parks shop. They will be removing a tree at the cemetery and can use a part of the stump to remount the fixture and relocate it. Ms. Ferguson asked the commission about the web page and whether she should just remove the pieces that are no longer there, or retain them on the web page in some way. It was agreed that the stump art that is no longer available should be removed from the website.

Ms. Ferguson said that the plaque for Teresa McHugh's Snow Ghost I has been ordered and received, and was provided to the Street Department for installation.

Ms. Ferguson said that when she was doing some research on the CaFE website, she was reminded about the Public Art Archive project that the commission had undertaken several years ago. At that time, the process of uploading all of the information regarding the city's public art was a very time-intensive process, and so the project was abandoned. Since that time, the city's public art has now been integrated into a database that is maintained by Debbie Frisbie, and so Ms. Ferguson said that she contacted Ms. Frisbie and provided her with the excel spreadsheet form that the Public Art Archives project uses and Ms. Frisbie, within one day's time, had inserted the information from the public art database into the form. The commission instructed Ms. Ferguson to put the item on next month's agenda for action by the commission.

MAYOR'S AWARDS IN THE ARTS DEBRIEF:

Commissioner Shute said that the event went very smoothly. She heard a lot of positive comments. In regard to the silent auction, Commissioner Shute said that it was her opinion that it should be discontinued as it did not make much money. She noted that it was fun to have the pieces on display and that maybe they can do that, rather than trying to sell them, as some of the pieces are very well made and others are not. Chairman Drake agreed that the silent auction should be discontinued if it is not worth the effort. Commissioner Runge suggested that the commission could find another place where the pieces could be displayed and enjoyed by the public. Commissioner Shute said that it was fun to have all of the pieces at the Chamber after the event and she sold two pieces that didn't sell at the auction. Commissioner Kahler suggested featuring art from the Mayor's Awards winners or former winners or nominees. Commissioner Shute said that she would prefer to feature past award winners and not involve the current winners as it is their night to celebrate.

Commissioner Groth said that he liked the visual display at the awards and the food was fabulous. Commissioner Ryba said that the video was exceptional. Commissioner Groth further commented that it was fabulous to hear the artist speak about their passion. It was a wonderful evening and a tribute to the artists.

Commissioner Ryba suggested that it might be helpful to visit the nominees before the commission votes. Commissioner Shute said that not all of the artists are visual artists so it might be difficult. She also commented that commissioners are not allowed to vote in public art

selection committees, so she wondered if the nominations should come from the public exclusively and not from the commission members. Chairman Drake said that it could be reviewed for next year's awards and noted that they have been receiving more nominations from the public the last few years.

Chairman Drake commented that it was a very friendly crowd and thanked everyone that came to the event.

CITY HALL ENTRANCE PROJECT DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Kahler noted that the City Hall Entrance now has landscaping and the eagle bench, etc., and so he wanted to check with the commission to see if they wanted to move forward with the project considering what is in front of City Hall already. Chairman Drake said that when the discussion started there was nothing there but it has since filled in so it doesn't seem necessary anymore. The commission agreed not to move forward with the project.

MURAL FESTIVAL UPDATE:

Commissioner Kahler said that he had another conversation with Scott Lakey and they decided that the best way to do the project was to talk to building owners in the downtown area and see if they would want a mural on their building, using a maximum of about 5 to 10 artists for the first time. He is not sure of how to go about getting a list of building owners. Mr. Tymesen said that the City can help with building ownership, and the commissioners can help to identify buildings that they are thinking about. Chairman Drake said that it might be just as easy to put the information out there and have the interested owners come to them. She asked if it would be allowed to put the paint on privately-owned buildings, while still being supported by City funds. Mr. Tymesen said that it doesn't work perfectly because it is out of the control of the commission as soon as it is done. Chairman Drake said that if it goes through their process they can control that as much as possible. The event itself is what they would be supporting; i.e., performance art. Mr. Tymesen clarified that it wouldn't be public art, but would be a festival that is sponsored by the Arts Commission.

Commissioner Shute said that she was in Boise last week and got to see "Freak Alley," which is a mural alley in Boise. It is an area that is repainted every year and is growing. There is a plaque on the entrance to the alley that says, "Freak Alley Gallery." She was thinking that doing something in that direction might be considered. Commissioner Kahler said that Mr. Lakey is really passionate about the art only being temporary and that each year they could come back to the same spot. Chairman Drake said that the project might be a way to get over the hurdle of people not wanting temporary art. Commissioner Kahler said that he is still hopeful to do the project next summer, and noted that Mr. Lakey said that he can get sponsors.

ARTCURRENTS INSTALLATION UPDATE/ARTCURRENTS BROCHURE:

Ms. Ferguson said that all five of the new ArtCurrents pieces have been installed, and the artists have been paid. The plaques were ordered and received, and were sent to the Streets Department for installation. Mr. Tymesen said that he had received a complaint from a very upset citizen regarding the "Girly Curl" sculpture on 1st and Sherman and, as a result, the piece will be moved. Commissioner Shute confirmed that she will create the new ArtCurrents brochure and Ms. Ferguson will send her the images and locations of the pieces.

CAFE CONTRACT RENEWAL:

Ms. Ferguson said that CaFE has changed their pricing plan and sent out a new agreement for their call to artist hosting services. She distributed a comparison of the last 10 calls and what the prices would have been on the “Small Plan” and the “Standard Plan,” and noted that even though some of the calls would have resulted in a larger fee, as a whole it would have been less expensive to go with the “Small Plan” and pay any overages as they occurred.

MOTION by Commissioner Groth, seconded by Commissioner Shute, to recommend that the City enter into a new agreement with CaFE, for the “Small Plan”. Motion carried.

COMMISSION INPUT RE: SGRECCI DONATION TO LIBRARY:

Commissioner Shute noted that Patty Sgrecci was an amazing artist who died a couple of years ago. She specialized in murals and had moved out of the area but was a long time resident here. Ms. Ammon said that Ms. Sgrecci’s husband decided that he wanted to donate some of Ms. Sgrecci’s mobile art and contacted the library. The Library Board met and said that they wanted to get the recommendation of the Arts Commission. Ms. Ammon noted that Donna Bain is acting on behalf of Ms. Sgrecci’s husband and presented images of the three mobiles that they are thinking about donating. She noted that one of the problems in the library is they have no wall space, and even hanging things is problematic. Some library staff members feel that the paper stones mobile fits the library design better and they have an idea of where it might go.

Chairman Drake said that she thought all three pieces were great and that, logistically, she would defer to the library. Commissioner Shute said that she loved the paper stones mobile, and noted that her mom always said, “Good art won’t match your sofa.” Ms. Ammon said that the library is approached all the time in regard to art. She noted that there is a space above the glass terrace doors where the paper stones mobile could hang. She confirmed the donation of artwork procedure and said that she will get the donation form filled out and then bring it back to the Arts Commission for approval. Commissioner Groth said that he would love to see a plaque with maybe a piece of the story, as it adds so much. Ms. Ammon confirmed that they will definitely install a plaque.

“BREAKING BOUNDARIES” AND “PLUNGE” RELOCATION UPDATE:

Ms. Ferguson reminded the commission that several months ago the commission approved the moving of the “Plunge” statue to the Independence Point steps, and the “Breaking Boundaries” statue to the Memorial Park Skatepark. She received an update from the Parks Department that the “Plunge” has been moved to Independence Point (on the knoll, rather than the steps), and that they were in the process of installing the metal pad for the “Breaking Boundaries” statue and would move it as soon as they were ready. Allied Weldery has assisted with the metal bases and installation, and the commission will be receiving an invoice for payment.

UTILITY BOX REWRAPS:

Ms. Ferguson noted that due to construction projects, three utility boxes in the collection have been removed and replaced with updated boxes. As a result, she asked the commission if they would approve the re-wrapping of the boxes at Seltice Way & Grand Mill (Osprey & Sailboats), 4th & Best (“A Day in the Clouds”), and 95 & Ironwood (“The Exhibit Hall”). She noted that the cost for wrapping a large box is approximately \$2,000. Mr. Tymesen said that they do their best not to wrap a box that is going to go away. Chairman Drake said that she had no issue with rewrapping the boxes, but as a note moving forward, the commission needs to make sure that they have done their due diligence in making sure that any new locations are not under immediate threat to be moved or altered.

MOTION by Commissioner Shute, seconded by Commissioner Kahler, to authorize the rewrapping of the large utility boxes at Seltice Way & Grand Mill, 4th & Best, and 95 & Ironwood. Motion carried.

PROCEDURE FOR NEW UTILITY BOX WRAPS:

Ms. Ferguson said that due to phone connection issues, Commissioner Moss was not available for a discussion of this item, but it was her understanding that Commissioner Moss was looking for clarification from the commission regarding the procedure for commissioning new utility box art. Ms. Ferguson reminded the commissioners that after the last call to artists, a list of the top 20-25 artists was compiled, and it was anticipated that they would be used for any future calls. After discussion, it was agreed that this item will be placed on next month’s agenda for discussion and clarification of procedure. Commissioner Kahler also suggested that the commission may want to set aside money to have the school boxes redone every 4 or 5 years.

STORM DRAIN ART UPDATE:

Commissioner Groth said that the schools are on board for their portion of the project, but it probably won’t happen until April.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Ped/Bike Brochure: Commissioner Shute said that now that they have the database, they will be able to update the brochure. They have talked about doing it a little differently and making the ArtCurrents brochure more a marketing piece and not having the pieces listed on the Ped/Bike Brochure. Chairman Drake commented that the Ped/Bike brochure is a highlight of the City’s public art collection, and even though the commission sponsors the ArtCurrents program, it is not a part of the public art collection.

Public Art Plaques: Commissioner Shute said that the subcommittee has been talking about prioritizing the plaques.

Four-Corners Entrance: Commissioner Bruning will schedule a meeting with the subcommittee. Chairman Drake will send an email after the meeting today to get things started.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Tevo Orjala said that he lives on Highland Drive and thinks that a mural would be great on the retaining wall. The walls has been tagged and the Post Falls Highway District has painted over it. He commented that he realized that he would need to get permission from the Post Falls Highway District and he went to their meeting and they were fine with the project, but said that they would need to have flaggers, etc., and asked Mr. Orjala to come back with an idea. Mr. Orjala asked if the Arts Commission could help pay for the mural, even though the property is probably about 200 feet outside of Coeur d’Alene’s legal boundaries. He noted that a mural that size would cost a lot of money. The maintenance person at the Post Falls Highway District said that he was worried about snow kicking up and ruining the mural, but Mr. Orjala did not think it would be a problem. He noted that the location is an entry point to City and also suggested that another idea would be to get the Tribe involved. He commented that he thinks the mural should be very “Idaho-oriented.” Mr. Tymesen explained that they do not go outside the City limits and as a result, he would not be able to carry the request to council. Chairman Drake said that the commission would be happy to share information and expertise, but they are not authorized to commission art outside of the city limits.

ADJOURNMENT: MOTION by Commissioner Shute, seconded by Commission Ryba, to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Amy Ferguson
Executive Assistant