

**ARTS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
February 28, 2023
City Hall, Conference Room #6**

Attendees: Chairman Mary Lee Ryba, Commissioner David Groth, Commissioner Abby Light, Commissioner Katie Linder, Commissioner Bev Moss, Commissioner Alesa Momerak, Student Representative Adeline Smith, Commissioner Kate Walker, Executive Assistant Sherrie Badertscher, City Accountant Stephanie Padilla, City Administrator Troy Tymesen.

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

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION: There were none.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Groth, seconded by Commissioner Linder, to approve the January 24, 2023, minutes. **Motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT: MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Bruning, seconded by Commissioner Light, to approve the January 2023, Financial Reports. **Motion carried.**

COMMISSIONER/STAFF COMMENTS: Chairman Ryba mentioned she was working on a project with Aspire Theatre and the school district for the CDA Student Visual Arts Show Exhibition which was being held May 6 - 7, 2023, at the Kroc Center. She said it would bring together performing and visual arts, and noted fun facts were that last year's Mayor's Awards in the Arts, Arts in Education honoree Deborah Loy-Linde was a leading/participating teacher at Bryant Elementary in the effort and Support of the Arts honoree Trigger Weddle was helping to lead the project at Aspire Theatre. She mentioned pianist Matt Goodrich was also participating.

Commissioner Groth asked about the paint color of the art piece "Monument to Peace and Unity" as he was under the impression it would have been a bronze color like the maquette the artist had submitted for the call, and would like to explore the possibility of painting it. He asked if the artist could be contacted to ask what finish they had applied and if painting it could be funded using the maintenance fund account. Commissioner Bruning said he would follow up with the artist and see if there was a paint preferred. Ms. Padilla mentioned the lighting still needed to be added.

Commissioner Groth said he was concerned with some people in the community who wished to take over and didn't feel they represented the core values of the community. He mentioned he would like to explore a call to artists to create signs which would involve artists in the community preparing statements of caring, compassion, and love etc. to be distributed throughout the community. He asked that an agenda item on the topic be added to the next meeting. Chairman Ryba recommended adding the theme to Arts Commission events or including it in other projects.

PRESENTATION BY LAKE CITY PLAYHOUSE: Board President Brook Wood, and Board member Jessica Petersen of the Lake City Playhouse introduced themselves and thanked the Arts Commission for allowing them an opportunity to make a presentation of the current situation of the playhouse. Ms. Wood said Lake City Playhouse was founded in 1966, the building was originally moved from Bonners Ferry to CDA in 1944, and minimal renovations had been completed since that time. She said they had closed in March 2020, due to the pandemic, and were financially stable during and after the shutdown. She said they had begun plans to reopen in February 2021, but the basement flooded in May 2021. Since that time, they have struggled with repairs and had to include asbestos abatement which added to the repair costs. Bids for the flood repairs had ranged from \$80,000-\$200,000 and their first contractor had stepped away from the project before completion. She noted they had paid \$96,000 for repairs to date and an additional \$120,000 was needed to finish the project. She said their current need was for operational expenses which equaled \$2,000 monthly which consisted mainly of utilities. She noted to rent alternative venues for weekend performances ranged from \$3,000 to \$17,000, depending on size. She said moving forward they recognized a need for a larger and more diverse board of directors, and would need to hire a paid executive director to handle the day-to-day activities which were currently being done by Board members. She noted during the pandemic they had used their own money and hadn't reached out for assistance yet they were now at the point of needing help. Chairman Ryba said she understood their plight and many of the performing art groups were experiencing funding difficulties. She mentioned the Arts Commission had limited funding available and had recently lost the Lake District URD funding; therefore, she was unsure if there were any funds available from the commission to assist them. She noted during the Covid pandemic the commission had awarded \$100,000 in the form of grants to performing arts organizations. Ms. Peterson said they would appreciate commissioners helping spread the word on board member candidates or other organizations which may be able help their small playhouse. Chairman Ryba suggested they put together a strategic plan and hold fundraisers in order to move forward. Commissioner Moss said the commission did a lot for visual arts and performing arts were not as well supported; therefore, she would like to keep the issue in front of the commission and on their radar in case something could be done in the future.

UPDATE ON "U.S. ARMY SOLDIER" ART SCULPTURE BY ARTIST TERRY LEE: City Accountant Stephanie Padilla said Terry Lee had provided the City a check in the amount of \$60,000 from the Bud Ford Estate to finance the art sculpture. Mr. Lee has taken the sculpture to the foundry in Oregon and expects to complete it by August/September 2023. The City is looking at possibly installing it at Veteran's Memorial Plaza in McEuen Park as Mr. Lee has plans to create a sculpture of a Navy Nurse as well and they would be a nice addition to the memorial space.

FUNDING SPONSORSHIP FOR THE AIR FORCE MARCHING BAND'S FREE CONCERT: City Administrator Troy Tymesen said the City had been contacted by Alexander Valdez, Senior Airman of the United States Air Force, and member of the USAF Band of the Golden West stationed at Travis Air Force Base, CA. He said the band would be providing a free concert at the Schuler Performing Arts Center at North Idaho College on April 23, 2023, and he was looking for local sponsors to assist with the bands lodging and travel costs. Mr. Tymesen said it would be a great opportunity for the City and a great venue. He said accompanying the tour was a Japanese Community Relations Liaison official from their band in Japan whose role was to foster friendships and commitments between the U.S. and Japan. Commissioner Linder asked which art

fund the money would be paid from, with Ms. Padilla responding there were funds within the Community Arts Partnership which was part of the 1% Fund-074.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Moss, seconded by Commissioner Momerak, to partner and provide funding in the amount of \$1200 to the Air Force Marching Band in support of their free community concert at NIC on April 23, 2023. **Motion carried.**

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES:

Mayor's Awards in the Arts: Chairman Ryba said the event was tentatively scheduled for October 4, 2023.

ArtCurrents: Chairman Ryba said she would be scheduling a committee meeting soon.

Audio Guide: Commissioner Bruning said the committee had been working with the contractor and still needed artists' assistance with finishing the audio narratives. He noted they had received narratives from 20 artists so far. He shared a web link of the project's progress to date and noted they were close to being ready to launch and were brainstorming ideas to market the app. Commissioner Linder said a couple ideas were small postcards, which could be distributed at various locations, and semi-permanent podiums with app information in key locations. Mr. Tymesen thanked the subcommittee for their perseverance in completing the project. Commissioner Linder asked if the app had built in analytics available as it would be important to gather feedback on the app's usage. She said another marketing idea was to partner with Art Walk to distribute information on app.

Performing Arts: Commissioner Groth said he received a list of local events from Chairman Ryba and would be sharing them with the commission each month.

Community Arts: Commissioner Light said the A & C Alliance had recently started tours with Special Needs Recreation (SNR), and suggested the tours could also promote Arts Commission projects such as the audio guide. She mentioned a student had been awarded the Jack Bannon Scholarship of \$500 and would be using it to produce an art show. She noted a new Little Art Gallery had been installed at 8th Street and Government Way and there was one located at 6th Street and Garden Ave which were funded by a grant from Idaho Community Foundation.

Ped/Bike Brochure: Commissioner Moss said she needed volunteers in late April or May to help distribute the new flyers. Commissioners Ryba, Linder, Momerak, Light, and Mr. Tymesen volunteered to help.

Public Art Plaques: Commissioner Moss noted the plaque for the Riverstone Park art piece "Undercurrent" had been ordered and would be installed as soon as it was finished.

Mural Projects: Commissioner Momerak noted there was a Mural in a Weekend event in Washington State in which she and Chairman Ryba planned to attend.

New Member Training/Policies: Chairman Ryba noted she had met with the new members over coffee and they had a good meeting chatting about the commission's role.

Wastewater Treatment Facility Sculpture Group: Chairman Ryba said the group had met on Monday, February 6, 2023, and had a good discussion on the project. They took a tour of the WW facility on Friday, February 24, 2023, with Program Manager Mike Becker. Commissioner Momerak noted the tour of the facility was a great experience. She said the torch where the sculpture would go was very tall and it would be important to include photos of the site that captured the scale. Mr. Tymesen said Mr. Becker would be able to assist with engineering requirements. Chairman Ryba asked if it was a good time to move forward with creating an official subcommittee to work on the project and what would be the funding source. Mr. Tymesen noted funding would be through the Public Art Fund 074 (1%) in which the Art Commission receives 1.33% of construction costs for certain above ground projects. Ms. Padilla mentioned the Wastewater Department had paid into the account regarding their recent building upgrade projects. Commissioners Moss, Light, and Momerak volunteered to serve on the subcommittee.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Moss, seconded by Commissioner Light, to create a subcommittee for the wastewater treatment facility art project.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Moss, seconded by Commissioner Linder, to adjourn the meeting. **Motion carried.**

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting ended at 5:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Sherrie L. Badertscher
Executive Assistant