

**ARTS COMMISSION MINUTES**  
**February 25, 2020**  
**City Hall, Conference Room #6**

**Attendees:** Amy Ferguson, John Bruning, Teresa Runge, Troy Tymesen, Mary Lee Ryba, Mag Behrmann, Jennifer Drake, Zoey Hart (Alternate Student Rep), Lindsey Sichelstiel, David Groth, Ali Shute, Amy Evans

**Guests:** Dwight Finney, Wendy Carroll, Tim Martin

**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: MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Runge, seconded by Commissioner Bruning, to approve the January 28, 2020 minutes. Motion carried.**

**REVIEW/CORRECTIONS/APPROVAL OF CURRENT FINANCIAL REPORT: MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Shute, seconded by Commissioner Ryba, to approve the January, 2020 Financial Report. Motion carried.**

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:** Councilmember Evans said that she met with Fire Chief Kenny Gabriel, who asked if it would be possible to get new art added to the Administration building on Foster. The photos that are there need to be updated and added to. They are also looking to do the same thing at Fire Station 3 on 15<sup>th</sup> Street. He said that the Arts Commission helped with the photos at Station 1 about 10 years ago, and he thought it was roughly about \$10,000, but it would probably be much less than that. Chairman Drake said that the commission can look back and see what they did and come back with some sort of proposal. Ms. Ferguson mentioned that Joe Sharnetsky was the artist who did the photo wall. Councilmember Evans said that Chief Gabriel would love to get Mr. Sharnetsky back to do the work.

Commissioner Shute said that the money has been raised for the Suffragist sculpture. Mr. Lee will be going to the foundry on Monday. She noted that the Arts & Culture Alliance had a really nice reception at Mr. Lee's studio where he talked about the process and they were able to raise the final amount of money needed. Commissioner Shute commended the women who put the package together, and noted that the request that has come in from almost everybody is they do not want the woman placed in the back. The statue should be ready for installation sometime this summer, but the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Suffragist movement is August 18<sup>th</sup>. They are thinking of having a small dedication ceremony when the piece is installed, and then a big celebration in August.

Commissioner Groth asked what was the largest single donation received. Commissioner Shute said that she thought it was \$2,500, but noted that she is not privy to all of the information because some funds came in through the City. She explained that the plaque will have the title of the piece and a listing of people's names who contributed \$1,000 or more to the project, along with a QR code that will go directly to the piece online. Mr. Tymesen explained that, being a non-profit, the City is taking in the donations, and then paying for the sculpture as it comes forward on draw requests like any other piece of art. There is a huge number of donors. Chairman Drake commented that it would be nice to say something on the plaque about the rest of the smaller donors who made the piece possible. Commissioner Shute said that they received donations of as little as \$20.00.

#### **STAFF COMMENTS:**

Mr. Tymesen said that the recommendation of the Arts Commission for the acceptance of the art on loan from the Pinkerton's was approved at the General Services/Public Works Committee meeting, and will be presented to the council under the Consent agenda at the next council meeting on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. He noted that the Pinkerton's will do the base and plaque, and will work with the City on engineering. The project is moving forward as fast as it can.

Chairman Drake asked where Marker #11 is located. Mr. Tymesen said that it is on City property, in storage. They have not been able to contact the artist. Chairman Drake commented that she has heard from a couple of people who are interested in displaying the piece on their own private property.

#### **REQUEST FOR FUNDING – “OUT OF THE SHADOWS” THEATRE:**

Wendy Carroll, Founder of “Out of the Shadows Theater,” said that in April, 2016 she came to an Arts Commission meeting with an idea and expectation, and the theater is now in its 5<sup>th</sup> Season. They do one major musical every November at the Kroc Theater. Ms. Carroll commented that it is a remarkable program and there is nothing like it in the Pacific Northwest, and they are the only group west of Ohio and north of Arizona that she knows of. All of their actors have special needs and their ages range from 20 to 65, with a few younger children. They want to give the participants something that they can feel good about. They just finished a production of “The Music Man,” and have been very successful in terms of audience attendance. The theater group is a 501(c)(3) non-profit.

Ms. Carroll presented a YouTube video of the performers singing a song from their production of “Beauty and the Beast.” She commented that adults with disabilities are the most underserved people in any community. The theater group has expenses including licensing fees, royalties, rental of the Kroc facility, rehearsal space rental, and costumes. They have a lot of theater people who set up and help and have sold out every show they've done. There are a lot of professional people that volunteer their time, and they have been covered by KREM and KXLY, and also have a web page. They are seeking funding, and would be able to put the Arts Commission logo in their program.

Chairman Drake said that she loves what the theater group has done, and commented that they all agree and it is incredibly important and well done. She noted that at the current time they don't have a community grant program, but thinks that there is a huge need to still support these

types of programs. She asked that this item be added to the agenda next month so that they can discuss and decide if there is some way they can move forward with the request.

### **LIGHTING PROPOSAL – “RAINBOW ARCH”:**

Mr. Dwight Finney presented information regarding lighting options for the “Rainbow Arch.” He discussed his background in lighting. He noted that there are some roadblocks in that the piece is not considered a “house,” but is a piece of art that must follow building codes, and it also has electrical power facilities. He also noted that the white color of the statue makes lighting difficult. He said that there are things that are currently on the sculpture that he wouldn’t take off, and the idea is to leave them on and utilize the channels as built in conduit so they wouldn’t have to retrofit. He suggested LED lighting strips on the rods, and laser lights.

Commissioner Groth asked if the pattern on the proposed laser lights could be changed. Mr. Finney said that the lights are run through glass and you can’t change the pattern. He noted that the benefit to his proposal is that you don’t have to have a technician on hand to run it. He further commented that the LED lights would be attached to the bottom of the rods, so that people could walk “under the rainbow.”

Councilmember Evans said that she and Mayor Widmyer did a site visit with Mr. Finney and he talked about the street lighting and how it was impacting the performance, and suggested shields on the street lights. Mr. Finney said that the street lights are so high that they cast a very large umbrella of light. If you were to take the lamp and put a skirt on it and drop it down, you would drop the light contamination as well.

Chairman Drake said that lighting on the arch has been an issue from the beginning and she asked Mr. Finney to keep working with city staff to figure out the best way to move forward. She noted that technology has probably changed since the piece was installed and there are probably new options. Mr. Finney concluded his presentation and left the meeting.

Mr. Martin, Streets & Engineering Director, said that he and the City’s electrician have met with Mr. Finney. He commented that a shield on the street lights is an option, and they have the capability to do what Mr. Finney has proposed, and would just need to get a permit to do the work. He noted that one of his concerns is that you can go to the North 40 store and see the same LED strips. He also commented that the strips are not going to hold up in the winter as they are fragile and can freeze and develop cracks. He stated that for three years they have been trying to find a vendor for the lighting, equipment and modules for the original concept of the arch. They had been looking at different options for decorative lights downtown and happened to find a vendor for all of the lighting and equipment on the arch and are meeting with him next Tuesday, at [10:00] a.m. He noted that there are problems with the wiring, and the computer module is not working. He asked that the commission give him a chance to present a proposal, and invited the commissioners to join him in meeting with the vendor next Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 10:00 a.m., at the Rainbow Arch. The vendor is bringing a demo module so that he can hook it up and will try to determine what they need to do to make it work right.

Councilmember Evans asked Mr. Martin if he had any concerns about mounting LED lights to the bottom of the metal rods, and noted that the original intent would be that the rods would be

illuminated 360 degrees. Chairman Drake commented that mounting the LEDs under the rods would probably be cool when walking under it, but she wondered if you could see the lights if you were a block away. Mr. Martin said that the City's electrician is confident that they can get the piece to be what it was originally intended to be. They will look at bringing it up to date, where the controls are accessed with a tiny antenna and can be programmed for different colors on different holidays, etc. He noted that it has been frustrating because they couldn't find the vendor who sold the equipment. The vendor is in Spokane and deals mainly with decorative lighting. Mr. Martin said that they would not do the repairs without a warranty, and it will be a little more expensive than what Mr. Finney proposed. He asked the commission to give him the opportunity to meet with the vendor and get back to the commission before a decision is made.

Chairman Drake said that their initial problem wasn't even the functioning of the arch. They had approved the original design, and the artist came back with an updated proposal which was totally different than what they had approved. They moved forward with the project, but also wrote a letter to the artist about his proposal being changed. The artist responded very aggressively and when the piece was finally installed, they were "biting the bullet" waiting to see what happened, and the piece has been underperforming since day one. She noted that the lighting issue was on the agenda for months trying to find the best way to move forward and make it better, and also dealing with public input. Then there was water damage from seepage into the components. After a while, they wrapped the cables in white reflective vinyl, put in two different spotlights, and changed a number of things over the years.

Commissioner Ryba commented that they have a professor in Coeur d'Alene whose expertise is in LED lights. She said that she was happy to offer his assistance.

Mr. Martin said that he will bring back something to the commission, with an anticipated cost. Mr. Tymesen confirmed that funds from the Arts Maintenance Fund could be used for the improvements.

**UPDATE ON "INSPIRED" PUBLIC ART SCULPTURE:**

Mr. Tymesen said that the artist has "gone quiet" again and so he will go back out to his studio in Dalton Gardens and check on him.

**MURAL FESTIVAL UPDATE:** No update provided. Commissioner Groth said that he was in Denver recently and was impressed with how many murals there are. He commented that it is stunning.

**UTILITY BOX WRAPS PROJECT SUBCOMMITTEE/SELECTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

Ms. Ferguson presented a Powerpoint which set forth the Utility Box Wraps selection committee recommendations for artwork, and the subcommittee's location recommendations.

**MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Runge, seconded by Commissioner Ryba, to accept the recommendations of the selection committee, and to recommend that Council approve the artwork and proposed locations. Motion carried.**

**MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Bruning, seconded by Commissioner Behrman, that the utility box at 95 & Ironwood be wrapped with the artwork titled “Lake Aurora” by artist Gay Waldman. Motion carried.**

**PUBLIC ART ARCHIVES UPDATE:**

Ms. Ferguson gave the commission an update on the progress of the Public Art Archives project. She noted that she was able to use the database information provided by GIS Coordinator Debbie Frisbie, but the specifications for the art images were very specific and Ms. Ferguson has spent a good amount of time converting the images to the required specifications. A small number of the images were not able to be converted, and so she is waiting for a nice, sunny day to go and take a few more pictures. Once the pictures are done, she should be able to upload the spreadsheet to Westaf, and then the next step will be to wait until she hears back from them with further instructions.

**ORDINANCE AMENDMENT RE: COUNCIL APPROVAL OF PUBLIC ART:**

The proposed ordinance amendment was reviewed and discussed. Mr. Tymesen said that the changes were an effort to confirm the process. Commissioner Runge asked if it would be possible to put language in the ordinance regarding discussing with the Arts Commission when a piece is proposed to be removed or relocated. Mr. Tymesen responded that everything that goes to the council has to be noticed and the discussion could take place as the agenda item comes before the council. If a piece was being relocated or removed, they would do a staff report to council and could include the Arts Commission’s recommendation. Councilmember Evans asked if language to that effect could be added to the ordinance in order to protect the Arts Commission and process. Mr. Tymesen said that the staff report is required by council. Discussion continued regarding whether something is deemed inappropriate. Chairman Drake commented that she would rather err on the side of caution in protecting art and what the commission does, rather than council determining everything. She noted that she would like to be a part of the conversation, even if it is just a formality, and understands that the council has the power to make the decisions. Councilmember Evans said that, as a council member, she would want to know the recommendations and thoughts of the committee and their expertise. Mr. Tymesen said that he would wordsmith the ordinance to include the suggestions.

Councilmember Evans said that she is still worried about censorship and the appearance or perception that they have the ability to censor art. Mr. Tymesen said that the selection of art is a subjective process and the commission gets to be an overseer of what comes into the community, and council gets to review that as well.

**MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Groth, seconded by Commissioner Shute, to approve the changes to the ordinance, as discussed. Motion carried.**

## **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:**

ArtCurrents: Commissioner Ryba said that the ArtCurrents brochures have been distributed, and that Commissioner Shute has the brochures if the commissioners need them.

Community Arts: Chairman Drake confirmed that the “Out of the Shadows” Theater request will be placed on the agenda for discussion next month. She noted that she believes that the commission should have some process to go through for people who are looking for funding in the arts, and commented that they used to have a grants program and it would be nice to be able to support valid, good art without having to do calls all the time. She explained that the community grant funds came from the Public Art Fund, which is the fund with the smallest balance. Ignite had been approached about their willingness to fund the grant program for projects in the urban renewal districts, and they declined. She asked the commissioners to give it a little bit of thought for further discussion next month regarding funding and where the funds would come from.

Councilmember Evans asked if there was any validity or benefit in going to ignite and having that discussion, i.e., sharing the request and overall benefit to the community because they might be willing to reconsider. Chairman Drake said that she believes it is very valid to have that discussion. Councilmember Evans said that without having an ignite rep physically present at the meetings, there is an obstacle in communication. Mr. Tymesen said that he will contact Tony Berns, and Commissioner Runge suggested inviting Commissioner Garcia to a specific meeting.

Four Corners: Commissioner Bruning said that he and Ms. Ferguson met and he has started working on the information sheet for the call to artists. He noted that there are some questions that the subcommittee needs to discuss and decide on, and he will email the subcommittee and work on the questionnaire. He commented that he also had some questions about the availability of water and electricity and the exact location of the art. Mr. Tymesen suggested that Commissioner Bruning contact Bill Greenwood, Parks & Recreation Director.

Councilmember Evans suggested that the recent new members might want to volunteer to serve on the subcommittees. Chairman Drake asked Commissioner Sichelstiel to look over the subcommittee list and decide what she where she is interested in serving.

**ADJOURNMENT: MOTION by Commissioner Bruning, seconded by Commissioner Runge, to adjourn. Motion carried.** The meeting adjourned at 5:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Amy Ferguson  
Executive Assistant