

ARTS COMMISSION MINUTES
May 24, 2016

Attendees: Jennifer Drake, Hilary Anderson, Sean Holm, Tina Johnson, John Bruning, ~~Deanna Goodlander, Trudy Elliott, Marina Lundy,~~ Jared Helm, Christina Hull, ~~David Groth, Maggie Hurst,~~ Mark Johnstone, Amy Evans, ~~Amy Ferguson,~~ Roberta Larsen

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

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION: There were none.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS: There were none.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were none.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MOTION by Commissioner Larsen, seconded by Commissioner Helm, to approve the April 16, 2016 minutes. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT: MOTION by Commissioner Helm, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, to approve the April, 2016 financial statement. Motion carried.

COMMISSION COMMENTS:

Chairman Drake explained the new agenda format and noted that the subcommittee reports were added to keep everyone on track. Commissioner Helm said that the subcommittee reports encourage accountability and help to remind everyone about the focus for the year.

Commissioner Hull commented that she did not volunteer to serve on the Library Bike Racks subcommittee as reported in last month's minutes.

STAFF COMMENTS:

Ms. Anderson said that Sam Taylor, the new Deputy City Administrator is starting on June 13th, and one of his responsibilities will be to take over the Arts Commission. Ms. Anderson noted that Mr. Taylor is very excited about it and was involved with the Arts Commission at his last place of employment in Morro Bay, California. Ms. Anderson and Mr. Holm will continue to be involved with the commission in June and July to help with the transition.

Mr. Holm said that the sails on Northwest Boulevard are going to be cleaned and then Cart Wrappers will follow up with a UV wrap.

Mr. Holm said that Commissioner Johnstone will be conducting training workshops for artists who want to apply for public art projects on June 3rd. The training will be conducted at the University of Idaho campus.

UPDATE ON INVENTORY OF ART PIECES WITHOUT IDENTIFICATION:

Mr. Holm said that he and Monte McCully did the walking and biking public art tour and took pictures of the art pieces. He noted that probably 70 to 80 percent of the pieces don't have standardized plaques and said that it would be expensive and would take some time to do a complete inventory of all of the public art pieces. As a result, they would probably need to roll the costs into the budget for next year. He also commented that it would not be possible to do plaques for the utility boxes. Commissioner Johnson said that at one time the commission talked about QR codes, but it is another added job for someone to do and she doesn't think it is necessary.

RAINBOW BRIDGE WRAP VOTE:

Chairman Drake asked for comments from the commissioners. Commissioner Johnson said that she would like to see the piece wrapped with something that is not so stark. She thinks that what has been done with the cables is a huge improvement, but would like to see the white disappear, and also the vertical lights. Mr. Holm explained the changes that have been made to the lights and wires. He noted that the light colors can shift and change color independently. If the vertical lights were removed, the piece wouldn't have the color changing effect anymore.

Chairman Drake asked if it would be difficult wrapping that part of the structure if they kept the lights. Mr. Holm said that he doesn't think it would be any more difficult but that the difficult part would be getting the wires off and prepping the piece. Chairman Drake expressed concern about wrapping the arms and having an edge of the wrap potentially becoming loose. Mr. Holm said that if the LEDs stay, they will become a weakness over time. He also mentioned the water leakage on the control panel, and noted that if the vertical LEDs were removed, the piece would still light up really well, but it would be more of a solid color; however, they might be able to get each side to run independently.

Commissioner Helm said that there are three reasons why he doesn't want to change the piece. One is that he believes that changing the piece can draw more attention that is not necessarily needed. When you apply color to any large object you are taking a risk. Right now the piece has become neutralized to people's eyes, and Mr. Helm noted that out of town people that he has spoken to generally have a more positive reaction to the piece. Mr. Helm also said that it bothers him that they would have to take the artist's name off the piece if they changed the color. The artist's intention was to make the piece feel like a seaport -- to make it nautical. Mr. Helm said that he "gets" the white, and the city appeal.

Commissioner Hull said that she is actually one of the few people that has always liked the piece, and thinks that it has been dramatically improved with the new lighting system. She actually likes the nautical look and does not think they would be able to get consensus on the color change. Councilmember Evans said that she agreed with Commissioner Hull and likes the piece even more now that it is performing better. She also thinks that respect for the selection committee that chose the piece in the first place is important. It is one thing to enhance the piece so that it shows up better, but another thing to change the entire appearance of it. She is not sure what message that sends to artists as well as the community.

Commissioner Johnstone said that there was a difference in what was approved and what the artist delivered. Chairman Drake said that it was a learning experience because the artist changed his proposal somewhat midstream and either nobody noticed or they took notice and didn't care. If there is going to be blame placed, then the commission deserves its share. Commissioner Larsen said that she likes the idea that the commission continues to honor the selection committee's choice, because they did work hard.

Commissioner Johnstone commented that any piece of art is going to be controversial and that is just the nature of the beast. The improvements that have been made have made the piece much better than it was.

Chairman Drake said that seeing the wires wrapped in white tied the piece together better than it was before and it is performing so much better that for her, so that part has been fulfilled. She can see the cables now from more than a block away, day and night.

Commissioner Johnson said that she doesn't remember a piece, other than "Ganesha" that has been so divisive, community-wise, than the arch. Councilmember Evans commented that she appreciates Commissioner Johnson "staying the course" on what she believes, and that the people in the City who don't like the piece would appreciate that there is someone who tried their hardest.

Chairman Drake said that if the channel lights become a maintenance issue, the commission will have to readdress them in the future.

MOTION by Commissioner Larsen, seconded by Commissioner Johnstone, to accept the lighting changes that have been made to the "Under the Rainbow" arch, and to maintain the white aesthetic of the piece and leave it as it is right now. Motion carried with Commissioner Johnson voting No.

PRESS RELEASES:

Commissioner Johnstone commented that he thinks city staff is greatly overtaxed and he would be willing to write press releases for the Arts Commission. Ms. Anderson said that they can discuss it with the new Deputy City Administrator since that is part of his job.

ARTCURRENTS – PROGRAM EXTENSION:

Mr. Holm said that he and Commissioner Larsen met with John Stone and Nicole re: Riverstone, and they would like to extend ArtCurrents into the Riverstone area around the lake and possibly in front of a few of the stores. The program could piggyback on the existing ArtCurrents program so that it becomes bigger. They would still have a selection committee, but rather than having two selection committees, they would just have one. If the commission decides to extend the boundaries of the program, they should design the ending of the current program with the beginning of the next one. Mr. Holm suggested an extension of this year's program until September of next year when they would send out a call for artists, and then in the spring of 2018 all of the art pieces would change in the downtown and in Riverstone.

Commissioner Hull asked if Mr. Stone and Nicole understood that they would not get to pick the art pieces for Riverstone. Mr. Holm commented that he made it very clear, and noted that they would need an agreement to that effect. Mr. Holm said that each year the number of pieces varies, and he told Mr. Stone that they will “get what they get” so there could be a store that ends up not having a piece in front of it. Commissioner Larsen said that Mr. Stone and Nicole were going to talk to the Riverstone Association to feel them out and request letters of support to the commission.

Commissioner Johnstone commented that his friends who visit and walk around the downtown area think that the program is great.

Commissioner Hull asked if the new Deputy City Administrator was going to be as involved in the ArtCurrents program as Mr. Holm was. Mr. Holm said that ultimately, the new Deputy City Administrator will be replacing him, but the real issue is going to be finding a replacement for former commissioner, Mike Dodge, who did a lot of coordination on the project. Commissioner Helm asked if when the time comes, they could hire additional staff to take care of it. He noted that he loves the idea of extending ArtCurrents because he likes the idea of the Arts Commission continuing to buy the pieces as it is a win for everybody involved since the art has already been through the selection process, and they know that it holds up to the weather and can be easily moved to a new location. Chairman Drake commented that in the past the commission has talked about a jury selecting a piece for the city to buy at the end of the ArtCurrents season. She thinks that idea gets stronger if we are potentially doubling the size of the pool of art, and agrees that the program really works for Main Street in Riverstone.

MOTION by Commissioner Helm, seconded by Commissioner Hull, to extend the current ArtCurrents program until next September and that the program next year be extended into the Riverstone area with a number of art pieces to be chosen at a later date. Motion carried.

Mr. Holm said that he will send out an extension agreement to all of the current artists and noted that most of the artists will probably accept the extension and the additional funds, but there will be a couple of artists that he won't extend the invitation to, as well as some artists that may want to pick up their pieces.

POTENTIAL PURCHASE OF TWIN TOWER ARTCURRENTS PIECE:

Mr. Holm said that the ArtCurrents “Twin Towers” piece is currently located near Independence Point. The idea is to place it at the new Fire Station 4, using the 1% capital improvements funds towards the purchase of the piece. Mr. Holm explained that he met with Finance Director Troy Tymesen, and they think they will end up with about \$12-\$13,000 from the 1% fund. Mr. Holm contacted the artist and he said that his best price was \$23,000. The artist said that he would help to place the art piece and set it up, as well as wax it and prep it for no charge. Mr. Holm commented that the artist said that it cost him \$45,000 to make the piece and it took him five years every weekend to build it.

Commissioner Johnson commented that when the piece first came in, she wrote an email to Chairman Drake and asked the commission to buy it. She loved it from the very beginning.

Mr. Holm said that they have received nothing but rave responses about the piece. Commissioner Helm said that what he loves about it is how instantaneous it is and he thinks it would be a beautiful statement.

Mr. Holm explained that Fire Station 4 is outside of the urban renewal districts and so the funds would have to come from the 1% (public art) fund. Chairman Drake commented that in the last ten years they have seen unprecedented art growth in Coeur d'Alene because they have the additional funds from Ignite CDA. When the urban renewal districts sunset, the commission will no longer have those funds and will go back to just having the 1% funds.

MOTION: A motion was made and seconded to purchase the Twin Towers art piece for Fire Station 4.

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Helm asked if the commission was going to receive money from the Four Corners project. Mr. Holm said that they should get some money, but they won't get 1% from the dollars that Ignite CDA contributes; only 1% from what the City contributes.

Motion carried.

Mr. Holm noted that the art piece will be left where it is until it is time to relocate it to Fire Station 4.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mayor's Awards in the Arts:

Commissioner Helm said that he has met with Commissioner Elliott. They are going to do a "street performance" themed awards ceremony with sketch artists, jugglers, live artists, etc. Jenny at Emerge will host an art show. The date has still not been confirmed but it will be the 6th or 13th of October. They are looking for a jewelry artist to display their work on the models. Commissioner Helm asked the commissioners to contact him with the names of any jewelry artists they might know. They are also starting the search for the artist to create the awards.

Commissioner Helm said that he would like to move up sending out the nomination forms July 25th to June 1st. The first reminder would then be sent out on July 25th, and the last reminder in August. He thinks by sending out the nomination forms sooner, they can increase the nominations received. Commissioner Helm also wants to call the event the "Mayor's Awards in the Arts, Hosted by the Coeur d'Alene Arts Commission," as he thinks that the commission needs credit for hosting it.

Utility Box Beautification:

No update.

ArtCurrents:

See discussion above.

Arts Commission Applicant Review:

Commissioner Larsen said that she will remind Zack Ashenbrenner to apply for the opening and noted that Zack is Mike Dodge's son-in-law and an artist. Chairman Drake encouraged the commissioners to talk to people they might know who would be interested, and said that it would be nice to fill the opening within the next month or two.

Riverstone Public Art:

Mr. Holm said that he met with John Stone, and on the 11th they will be doing a walk-around of the site with interested local artists. Commissioner Larsen noted that the "Quietude" piece was moved to Riverstone and placed in front of the new Anthony's Restaurant.

Four Corners Roundabouts:

No update.

Performing Arts:

Ms. Anderson commented that she heard from Greg Lewis about the busking proposal and encouraged him to talk to Commissioner Groth. Mr. Lewis said that he did not want to be on the commission, but would like to help. Ms. Anderson will follow up with him.

Community Arts:

Commissioner Hull said that she and Commissioner Helm were not able to attend the Emerge board meeting last month, but they will be attending the June meeting. Emerge is going well and the classes that the commission has sponsored have done well and have had a good turnout and positive feedback.

Mill River Public Art:

No update.

Public Archives Project:

No update.

Ped/Bike Brochure for Art:

Commissioner Larsen said that they have received the money that the Arts Commission pledged and also received donations from Daft Badger, Capone's, and the Tap House. They are going to be printing the brochures by the 27th, or so.

Mural Project:

Chairman Drake said that they are hoping to get the call out in the next few weeks. They might have a minor hiccup, and are working on getting all of their permissions to make sure that everything is good to go. The hiccup is that the owner of Sherman Park, which they would need to access to paint the wall, said that he wants final approval of the piece, which they are not going to give him, and so they are going to offer him a place on the selection committee. If that is not acceptable to him, then they may be forced to choose another location. The owner will be in town on Friday and they will meet with him.

Chairman Drake also noted that she will make sure that the improvements on Seltice Way will not affect the trail confluence call.

McEuen Arch Underperformance:

See discussion above.

Art Policy Revision:

Ms. Anderson said that she will probably work with the new Deputy City Administrator on the revision as they have several code amendments going on right now.

Library Bike Racks:

No Update.

Commissioner Johnstone said that he has been working with the mayor and the Parks & Rec Department regarding the Greg Moore memorial, and will be writing grant applications to try to raise money for it. He asked for permission to write the grant applications under the Arts Commission's name. Ms. Anderson said that the challenge would be on what the grants are going to fund and if it is something where they would need a Call for Artists, then it would need to come back to the commission for selection. The other concern she has is if they use Ignite funds to pay for the project, then they would need to set aside money for future maintenance because the .33 percent is not going to cover it. The cost of the memorial is going to be quite high in regard to future operation and maintenance.

Chairman Drake commented that she would hate to get involved in a way that wouldn't give the commission any say on selecting how the project is built or what it looks like, but is left on the hook to maintain it. Mr. Holm commented that the same thing happened with the sun dial in that the commission didn't choose it and there was no selection committee, but at some point it is going to need some maintenance and they are still trying to figure out what that looks like and who maintains it. Chairman Drake said that as the arts inventory grows, the maintenance fund isn't growing at the same pace.

Commissioner Johnstone noted that he has been cautioning the commission from the beginning that there needs to be 15% above and beyond whatever they are planning for maintenance and conservation. He also noted that the Idaho Commission on the Arts and the Idaho Police Officers Association have said that they would be willing to back the grant applications. Chairman Drake said that it will be interesting to see how the project moves forward and who is asked to be involved.

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Amy Ferguson
Executive Assistant