

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

Attendees in Person: Jennifer Drake, Amy Ferguson, Troy Tymesen, Pricilla Bell, Stephanie Padilla, Ali Shute

Attendees via ZOOM: Teresa Runge, David Groth, Mag Behrmann, Mary Lee Ryba, Zoey Hart, Bev Moss, Lindsey Sichelstiel

CALL TO ORDER: Vice-Chairman Shute called the meeting to order. Chairman Drake arrived at 4:05 p.m.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION: There were none.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were none.

REVIEW/CORRECTIONS/APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION: Commissioner Shute made a small name correction to the minutes. **Motion by Commissioner Shute, seconded by Commissioner Bell, to approve the June 23, 2020 minutes, as corrected. Motion carried.**

REVIEW/CORRECTIONS/APPROVAL OF CURRENT FINANCIAL REPORT:

Ms. Padilla explained that an expenditure of \$2,500 was made to Color Kinetics to start the process for the “Under the Rainbow” arch repairs. Mr. Tymesen noted that some grass and flowers have been planted near the “Unconquered” statue.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Groth, seconded by Commissioner Runge, to approve the June, 2020 Financial Report. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER/STAFF COMMENTS: Mr. Tymesen said that the consulting firm for the “Under the Rainbow” repairs is going to come out as soon as the COVID-19 pandemic slows down a little bit, hopefully in August. Chairman Drake commented that she doesn’t want the momentum on the repairs to stop.

“FREEDOM TREE” UPDATE:

Mr. Tymesen said that the Freedom Tree is done. Unfortunately, the artist’s truck broke down as he was attempting to transport it to Coeur d’Alene. He noted that the Parks Department is ready to help the artist as soon as his transmission is repaired.

“SUFFRAGIST” STATUE DEDICATION UPDATE:

Mr. Tymesen commented that he thinks the dedication will be spectacular. He noted that the street will not be shut down. He has reached out to the fundraising group regarding the communication confusion, and thinks that they feel better. Chairman Drake concurred and said that she thinks the event will be great and it seems like everybody is excited to do something

positive and get it done and in place. Commissioner Shute said that the group that is doing the documentary will also be there and she thinks they will have a drone taking shots from above. She commented that she is a little concerned that they will have a lot of people at the dedication, but it could go either way. Chairman Drake said that the reality is there are only so many people you can get in the immediate vicinity of the statue. She and Ms. Ferguson will talk to everyone participating in the program and ask them to acknowledge everyone and speak loud enough that most people can hear.

Commissioner Shute said that the people doing the documentary went to the foundry and got a lot of shots there. They are also wanting to interview Sandi Bloem at some point and are hoping to have the documentary done sometime in August. They would like to have a short piece of the documentary to show at the Mayor's Awards in the Arts. Commissioner Bell asked if the documentary could be posted on the website. Commissioner Shute said that they want to make it about 25-30 minutes long and possibly sell it to Netflix.

APPROVAL OF 4-CORNERS PUBLIC ART REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS:

Commissioner Shute said that the information regarding equality and human rights was added to the call. Commissioner Bell suggested adding a bullet item to the call -- that the artwork should affirm the community's commitment to eliminating racism. Commissioner Shute agreed and commented that stating it out loud is really important. Chairman Drake said that she would have no problem adding the bullet item and approving the RFQ as amended.

Commissioner Bell expressed concern about the substantial dip on the side of the road where the public art would be placed. Mr. Tymesen said that the City can level the site based on indicators from the piece of art. Chairman Drake said that there is a big enough plot of land that the art can be installed where it is easiest. Mr. Tymesen noted that visibility will be excellent.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Bell, seconded by Commissioner Shute, to approve the Request for Qualifications, as amended. Motion carried.

CONTINUED DISCUSSION, DRAFT GUIDELINES & TIMELINE RE: PERFORMING ARTS FUNDING:

Chairman Drake said that she and Councilmember Miller presented to ignite cda the concept of some sort of an emergency bridge grant for performing arts organizations in the community. She noted that the commission has had a hard time in the past getting any approval from ignite for any sort of funding for the arts which was not physical art in their district. Chairman Drake noted that the legality is very tricky and the organizations must demonstrate that they are either in or have a high impact on the urban renewal districts. Chairman Drake commented that, due to COVID-19, it is an unprecedented scenario that they are dealing with and performing arts organizations are struggling to survive. She noted that their presentation regarding the bridge grant noted that they would have very strict guidelines that everyone would have to adhere to. The presentation went very well, and the biggest question that ignite had was the same question that always comes up – is it an appropriate use of urban renewal funds. Chairman Drake noted that an ignite board member(s) would serve on the selection committee, and the selection committee would bring their recommendations to the Arts Commission and the ignite board for

their approval. She noted that she thinks it is better to have more eyes on the process to make sure that everyone is comfortable with it.

Mr. Tymesen thanked Ms. Ferguson for her work on the documentation for the grant program. He noted that they are moving forward with a staff report and application for the performing arts grant, which has been reviewed by the Legal Department, Tony Berns (ignite), and Councilmember Miller. In regard to the requirement on the application that the organization have compensated performers, Mr. Tymesen noted that it was his understanding that the requirement might eliminate some of the local organizations who don't have paid performers, such as the Coeur d'Alene Symphony, and Out of the Shadows Theater. Chairman Drake said that during most of their conversations they were talking about at least one paid staff position and/or compensated performers.

Commissioner Shute asked about a situation where the organization has a history of paid staff but due to the current situation have laid off their staff. Chairman Drake said that all of the guidelines and restrictions that they are putting forward are technically pre-COVID based. It was agreed that language regarding historical information about paid staff and performers would be added to the application.

Chairman Drake commented that they are trying to distribute the grant funds as quickly as possible. She noted that time is of the essence but they are giving the organizations 36 months to use the money.

Commissioner Shute asked when the application would be ready to give to the organizations. Chairman Drake said that most of the organizations that are going to apply are well aware that it is going to happen. If the program is approved, then it would be up to the community arts subcommittee and performing arts subcommittee to get together and decide on the deadline.

Commissioner Bell asked how the arts organizations would be identified. Chairman Drake said that it hasn't been a formal process. Councilmember Miller has been involved with a lot of the organizations and saw how hard it was hitting all of them. She noted that as soon as the program was approved, the application would be going out to a list of organizations, in addition to being made public. Commissioner Shute will send Ms. Ferguson a comprehensive list of the organizations. Ms. Ferguson will also send the information to the arts database and send out a press release.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Moss, seconded by Commissioner Bell, to approve the performing arts grant program and application, as amended.

Motion carried.

UPDATE ON "INSPIRED" PUBLIC ART SCULPTURE:

Mr. Tymesen said that the artist has not been in communication with him, and that he will personally visit the artist's studio.

ARTCURRENTS ARTWORK STATUS DISCUSSION:

Ms. Ferguson explained that she has heard from three ArtCurrents artists who are wondering if they need to make arrangements to pick up their pieces. Commissioner Shute suggested extending the program for another year. Chairman Drake suggested that the easiest thing in the current situation is to extend the program for another year and leave the pieces, with the possibility of doing a full call next year with a full turnover. Ms. Ferguson will send a letter/email to the artists offering to extend for an additional year for \$600.00.

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Shute, seconded by Commissioner Runge, to extend the current ArtCurrents pieces on display for another year at \$600.00 per piece.

Motion carried

UPDATE ON UTILITY BOX BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT/15TH & SHERMAN UTILITY BOX REPLACEMENT:

Ms. Ferguson explained that digital images for the utility boxes that are currently available have been sent to Cart Wraps. TDS has six boxes that are not available yet. Ms. Ferguson will continue to work with them on a completion schedule and will get the remaining boxes wrapped as they become available. Mr. Tymesen noted that the utility box on 15th & Sherman was struck by a vehicle and damaged again. The temporary box that was placed at that location is already wrapped with old artwork from Kenneth Jungjohann. Mr. Tymesen also noted that it will be a while before the new box is installed, but it will be wrapped once the installation is complete.

CONTINUED FISCAL YEAR 2021-21 BUDGET DISCUSSION:

Mr. Tymesen said that a new line item for the grant program would appear in the ignite fund. He proposed that the entire \$100,000 grant amount be placed in the budget even though it might not be spent in the next fiscal year.

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES:

Mayor's Awards in the Arts: Commissioner Shute said that the subcommittee met shortly after the last meeting and decided to come up with three contingency plans. The first would be to have the event as usual, but to space people out and require masks. The second one would be to do a ticketed event which would enable them to manage the crowd, and the third option would be a livestream event with no crowd at all. They decided that they need to get expertise and advice from Mr. Shirley at the Reosrt, but Commissioner Shute said that they think that at least the second option where they do a ticketed event might be doable. Chairman Drake said that she is totally fine with a ticketed event that is free, and commented that she thinks the public in general has gotten used to that sort of thing.

Commissioner Shute said that last year they showed a video of the Seltice Way pieces. This year they would like to do a small clip of the Suffragist documentary. She also commented that they would like Zac Aschenbrenner to do the awards again this year as he does an amazing job, and the awards are specific to the artists and are a piece of art. Chairman Drake said that she will ask Mr. Aschenbrenner.

Commissioner Groth said that he is moving more towards the mindset of not creating opportunities for people to misbehave, and leans more towards a Facebook Live event. Commissioner Shute said that she agrees to some extent, but her experience is that people are tired of virtual stuff. Chairman Drake said that she would want to do both – a live feed and also have people be able to show up with masks. She noted that, right now, it is nearly impossible to plan three months in advance. Commissioner Shute said that she likes the ticketed idea because you can seat people in groups together, and they could make it a priority for the award winners' families to be present. She commented that doing a Facebook Live feed, no matter what, is a good idea.

Commissioner Bell said that she was also concerned that creating an opportunity for people to misbehave could result in people misbehaving. She noted that she hasn't seen a lot of compliance in Coeur d'Alene. Chairman Drake said that she thinks the best thing they can do is have several different contingency plans. They will probably have to decide at the September meeting what is the most responsible option.

Parking Garage: Commissioner Shute said that she loves the idea of sculptures coming out of the wall, and thought it might be a fun idea for the parking garage. Chairman Drake commented that she thought it would be applicable to a parking garage, which is mostly just finished walls. Commissioner Shute said that she thinks it would be fun and would draw attention to that part of town.

Ped/Bike Brochure: Commissioner Moss said that she met with Debbie Frisbie on June 30. They are editing the brochure, but it doesn't need to be printed until next year. They will be adding the new utility boxes, removing the ArtCurrents pieces, renumbering, etc. She commented that the commission needs to make sure that the brochure locations are stocked.

ADJOURNMENT: MOTION by Commissioner Bell, seconded by Commissioner Runge, to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Amy Ferguson
Executive Assistant