



ARTS COUNCIL MINUTES AUGUST 14, 2019

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Erin Vivion at 6:36 pm at Mercer Island Community & Event Center, 8236 SE 24th Street, Mercer Island, WA 98040.

Roll Call

- Members Present: Anumeha, Amy Barnes, Erik Gordon, Matt Lome, Damian Schwiethale, Suzanne Skone, and Erin Vivion
- Members Absent: Xixi Shakes and Gaylene Vaden
- City Council: Deputy Mayor Salim
- Staff: Sarah Bluvas and Diane Mortenson
- MIVAL Liaison: Claudia Zimmerman
- FAAC Liaison: Alice Finch
- Guests: Pamela Lavitt, Stroum Jewish Community Center

Appearances

No appearances.

Minutes

It was moved by Gordon; seconded by Skone to:

Approve the July 10, 2019, as presented.

Passed 7-0

FOR: 7 (Anumeha, Barnes, Gordon, Lome, Schwiethale, Skone, Vivion)

AGAINST: 0

ABSENT: 2 (Shakes, Vaden)

2019 Budget Report – Sarah Bluvas

Bluvas reported that \$12,630.58, remains in the Arts Council's 2019 operational budget.

Funding Request: SeaJAM Festival 2019 – Pamela Lavitt, Director of Arts+Ideas and the Seattle Jewish Festival, Stroum Jewish Community Center

Lavitt requested funding to support the second annual SeaJAM Festival taking place September 13-15, 2019. The Arts Council asked Lavitt questions and then discussed the request after Lavitt left the meeting.

It was moved by Lome; seconded by Skone to:

Provide \$1,000 to sponsor the Joel Gamoran Brunch on Sunday, September 15, and support the Challah Baking Contest on Friday, September 13.

Passed 5-0-2

FOR: 5 (Gordon, Lome, Schwiethale, Skone, Vivion)

AGAINST: 0

ABSTAIN: 2 (Anumeha, Barnes)

ABSENT: 2 (Shakes, Vaden)

Staff will follow up with Lavitt to finalize the sponsorship details.

Community Engagement Opportunities – All

Community Survey: The Arts Council discussed and made changes to the community survey community survey drafted by Schwiethale and staff.

It was moved by Schwiethale; seconded by Gordon to:

Approve the community survey as amended.

Passed 7-0

FOR: 7 (Anumeha, Barnes, Gordon, Lome, Schwiethale, Skone, Vivion)

AGAINST: 0

ABSENT: 2 (Shakes, Vaden)

Staff will make final edits to the online and hard-copy versions of the survey and begin distributing by Friday, August 23.

Community Engagement Ideas – Farmer’s Market, Sunday, August 23, 10 am-3 pm: Bluvas will take the lead on set-up and manning the booth. Activities will include distributing the community survey, raffling tickets to SeaJAM 2019: Brunch with Chef Joel Gamoran, and bubbles & sidewalk chalk for children’s activities. Bluvas will send a link to sign up to volunteer.

Community Engagement Ideas – Art UnCorked, Friday, September 6, 6-9 pm: A small group met to discuss ideas for the event, including coordinating a pop-up performance in the gallery. Due to lack of time for additional preparation, the Arts Council will man a booth with activities including the community survey and the SeaJAM raffle. Chair Vivion and Schwiethale will take the lead on set-up and volunteering; Bluvas will send a link for other volunteers to sign up and prep activity materials and marketing collateral by August 29. Chair Vivion requested that the Arts Council form a sub-committee to better prepare for next year’s event.

Project Proposals Rubric and Bylaws Review – All

Project Proposals Rubric: Bluvas shared updates made to the rubric as a stipulation of its adoption at the last meeting. The Arts Council accepted these updates, and the rubric is now ready to use to evaluate project/funding proposals.

Bylaws – Second Review: *For the sake of time, Chair Vivion tabled this discussion until a future meeting.*

Chair Report – Erin Vivion

The public comment period for Vision 2050, the Puget Sound Regional Council’s long-range strategic planning process, is open. It ends September 16, 2019, and can be accessed at:

<https://www.psrc.org/draft-vision-2050>

She also asked Deputy Mayor Nice for an update on the MOU for the proposed mixed-use development at the former Tully’s site in Town Center. Deputy Mayor Nice is serving on a working group with MICA and the developers; they met last week, and negotiations are progressing. The Arts Council should review the next City Council agenda packet for more information.

Gallery – Amy Barnes, Chair

The installation of *Blomster*, a new sculpture approved for temporary display in the Greta Hackett Outdoor Sculpture Gallery, is moving forward, with a target installation date of the week of September 2. Barnes also requested volunteers to assist with the gallery install coming up on Saturday, September 7, 11 am-2 pm.

Literary – Erik Gordon, Chair

The Friday Night Films series kicks off again with a screening of *Topsy-Turvy* on Friday, September 6, at 7:30 pm at Aljoia. Gordon is also working on a special film event including local sponsors to take place in the 2020 half of the season.

Master Plan (ad-hoc committee) – Erik Gordon

The ad-hoc committee met on August 7 and 14 to discuss needs and next steps for moving the arts and culture/placemaking vision for the Aubrey Davis Park master plan forward. The group meets again on August 23 and plans to share a draft at the September Arts Council meeting.

Mostly Music in the Park – Matt Lome, Co-Chair

The final concert is tomorrow, Thursday, August 15. Activities begin at 6 pm, with a “Mercer Island Musician Showcase” performance by Lome at 6:30 pm. The headliner Filé Gumbo takes the stage at 7 pm.

FAAC – Alice Finch

Finch will be in Denmark in September and unable to attend the September meeting.

Staff Updates – Diane Mortenson

- The Parks & Recreation Department is hosting Doo Wop and Daisies, an event to celebrate aging in our community, on Thursday, September 12, 11 am-2 pm at the Mercer Island Community and Event Center.
- Rotary Club will host the first annual Walk for Peace on Friday, September 21, 10 am-12 pm.

Adjournment

Chair Vivion adjourned the meeting at 8:18 pm.