ARTS COUNCIL MINUTES
JUNE 13, 2018

Call to Order
The meeting was called to order by Rene Stratton at 6:33 pm at the Mercer Island Community & Event Center, 8236 SE 24th St., Mercer Island, WA 98040.

Roll Call
Members Present: Amy Barnes, Candace Chuck, Erik Gordon, Matt Lome, Jessica Prince, Damian Schwiethale, Xixi Shakes, Rene Stratton, An Tootill, and Erin Vivion.
Members Absent: Gaylene Vaden
City Council: Deputy Mayor Salim Nice
MIVAL Liaison: Claudia Zimmerman
Staff: Diane Mortenson and Sarah Bluvas
Guest: Ryan Daly, Manager, Mercer Island Community & Event Center

Appearances: None

Minutes:

It was moved by Prince; seconded by Lome to:
Approve the May 9, 2018 minutes as amended.
Passed 10-0
FOR: 10 (Barnes, Chuck, Gordon, Lome, Prince, Schwiethale, Shakes, Stratton, Tootill, Vivion)
ABSENT: 1 (Vaden)

Amended Agenda: Diane Mortenson introduced new Arts Council Liaison Sarah Bluvas and requested that the discussion of painting the Mercer Gallery walls be moved up after the Vice Chair Report to allow guest Ryan Daly to present and leave directly after.

The amendment was approved without objection.

Vice Chair Report – Rene Stratton
New Member Welcome: Vice-Chair Rene Stratton welcomed the new Arts Council members.

Acknowledgement of Chair Resignation: Stratton acknowledged the resignation of former Chair Joy Langley, who resigned after submitting her leave of absence to the City Manager. Some members expressed their shock over the rapid chain of events and concern that Joy faced pressure to resign, but no current policy for taking a leave of absence exists for Boards and Commissions at this time.

Vote for New Chair and Vice-Chair: Stratton called for nominations for a new Chair and Vice-Chair.

It was moved by Prince; seconded by Tootill to:
Nominate Rene Stratton for Chair.
Passed 10-0
FOR: 10 (Barnes, Chuck, Gordon, Lome, Prince, Schwiethale, Shakes, Stratton, Tootill, Vivion)
ABSENT: 1 (Vaden)

<u>It was moved by Stratton; seconded by Prince to:</u>
Nominate Erin Vivion for Vice-Chair.
Passed 10-0
FOR: 10 (Barnes, Chuck, Gordon, Lome, Prince, Schwiethale, Shakes, Stratton, Tootill, Vivion)
ABSENT: 1 (Vaden)

<u>Downtown Banner Artist Approval</u>: The Selection Committee met before the Arts Council meeting and selected designs by artist Pamela Edwards as their recommendation to the Arts Council. Rene presented the designs to the group. The group discussed designs and the strategy for promoting the project to the public, including hosting an "opening" event at the Chamber of Commerce.

<u>It was moved by Tootill; seconded by Lome to:</u>
Approve Pamela Edwards as the 2018 Banner Selection Committee's artist choice.
Passed 9-0-1
FOR: 9 (Barnes, Chuck, Gordon, Lome, Schwiethale, Shakes, Stratton, Tootill, Vivion)
ABSTAINED: 1 (Prince)
ABSENT: 1 (Vaden)

<u>19/20 Budget Subcommittee</u>: Stratton asked for members to participate in the 19/20 budget draft process. Amy Barnes and Erin Vivion volunteered to be involved. Mortensen and Bluvas will follow-up with them with next steps.

Discussion of Painting the Mercer Gallery Walls – Diane Mortensen, Ryan Daly, and Amy Barnes
Staff and Barnes presented the need to repaint the panels in the Mercer Gallery and requested the Arts Council approve the use of $35,000 in 1% for Arts to fund the renovation. Staff and Arts Council members expressed interest in including new signage in the renovation that recognizes the Arts Council and raises the profile of the council/gallery.

<u>It was moved by Tootill; seconded by Barnes to:</u>
Approve $35,000 for the renovation of the Mercer Gallery and new signage recognizing the Arts Council.
Passed 10-0
FOR: 10 (Barnes, Chuck, Gordon, Lome, Prince, Schwiethale, Shakes, Stratton, Tootill, Vivion)
ABSENT: 1 (Vaden)

Special Projects Report – An Tootill, Chair
Tootill reintroduced the IdeaX maker space project and asked the group to vote on the three fall dates proposed to ensure that at least one Arts Council member is able to attend each event. The group decided on September 22, 2018, for Stop Motion Animation; October 13, 2018, for 3D Pens; and November 10, 2018, for Ukulele. All events take place from 1-3 pm at the Library. Tootill agreed to "host" the first event and will also clarify marketing/promotion and other needs from the Arts Council.

Mostly Music in the Park – Matt Lome, Co-Chair
<u>Recruiting Arts Council volunteers for each concert</u>: Matt Lome asked for Arts Council volunteers to make announcements at each MMIP event. Vivion agreed to announce at the August 9 event. Members present encouraged Matt to check on Joy Leichty's availability. Members should contact Lome if they wish to volunteer.

Arts and Culture Coordinator Bluvas reported that a band had an issue with the 15% commission that the Arts Council receives from merchandise sales. The Arts Council agreed to keep the current policy and reevaluate next year. Bluvas will develop signage explaining that a portion of merchandise sales supports Arts Council programs.

Damian Schiewathale suggested adding other components to the event, like social dancing, that may attract new audiences. Schiewathale also suggested reaching out to local dance communities and inviting them to at least attend. Bluvas and Lome will coordinate this.

Public Art – Erin Vivion, Chair
Local Arts Agency (LAA) and Planning Commission Meeting Updates:
- Vivion and Stratton attended Planning Commission on Wednesday, June 6, to discuss the draft Arts Comprehensive Plan.
- The Arts Council hosted the regular 4Culture meeting at the MICEC last month. They talked about the Mercer Island Arts Center, Youth Theater Northwest, and the role the Arts Council is playing in earning the Creative District designation.

Creative District Subcommittee: Efforts to develop a stakeholders group are underway. Candace Chuck, Erik Gordon, and Schwiethale volunteered to serve on the Creative District Subcommittee.

4Culture Creative Consultancy Program: Vivion reported on the 4Culture creative consulting program. Bluvas will meet with Vivion to discuss how the Arts Council will work with 4Culture on this program.

Gallery – Amy Barnes, Chair
BIAWA Exhibit and Opening Reception, 6/14, 5:30-7 pm: Barnes encouraged attendance.

Sculpture Gallery Tags and STQRY Codes: Bluvas reported on the status of adding/updating gallery labels and STQRY codes. She will e-mail the group once updates are complete and ask them to test the STQRY codes.

MMIP and Maintenance in Adjacent Parking Lot: Based on past issues, Barnes asked Staff to ensure that all maintenance is paused in Mercerdale Park during MMIP concerts. Bluvas will coordinate with Park Maintenance to comply.

Urban ArtWorks: Barnes presented a new proposal to sponsor Urban ArtWorks at Summer Celebration! in lieu of hosting an Arts Council booth this year.

It was moved by Tootill; second by Lome to:
Pursue a sponsorship of $1,000 to host Urban ArtWorks at an Arts Council booth at Summer Celebration! provided that an activity is feasible given the short time frame.
Passed 10-0
FOR: 10 (Barnes, Chuck, Gordon, Lome, Prince, Schwiethale, Shakes, Stratton, Tootill, Vivion)
ABSENT: 1 (Vaden)

Painting Gallery Walls: (Discussion moved up to after Vice-Chair Report)

Staff Report – Diane Mortenson
E-mail Addresses: Mortenson reminded the group to use their City e-mail address for all Arts Council communications. Bluvas will follow up with IT on the process for changing passwords.

<u>Beowulf Program</u>: The Parks & Recreation department will move forward with this program as a Parks & Rec-hosted event. The group agreed to support it in the Recreation Guide.

Other Business
Tootill asked about progress for the Greta Hackett Outdoor Sculpture Gallery signage. Staff continue to steward this project and will update the Arts Council when it is ready.

The group tabled a discussion of Arts Council committees to allow new members the chance to complete orientation. The item will be added to the agenda for the July meeting.

Adjournment
Chair Stratton adjourned the meeting at 8:27 pm.

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Rene Stratton, Chair

Attest:

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Sarah Bluvas, Scribe