



ARTS COUNCIL MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 9, 2015

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm by Vice Chair, An Tootill.

Roll Call

Members Present: Jack Emick, Karen Kaser, Joy Langley, Joy Liechty, An Tootill, Erin Vivion, Suzanne Zahniser, Linda Iwanyk and Rene Stratton, Absent: Paulette Bufano.

City Council:

Council Member Jane Meyer Brahm.

Staff:

Amber Britton and Eileen Hemmis Trifts

MIVAL Liaison: Bob Still

Appearances:

John Gordon Hill, Chairman of Board, MICA

Lesley Bain, lead architect, MICA

Update on Mercer Island Center for the Arts (MICA)

Gordon Hill and Lesley Bain appeared before the Arts Council to give an update on where they are with the design of the new Mercer Island Center for the Arts (MICA). They are finishing up the schematic design phase. Their focus at tonight's meeting is on art. MICA wants everything about this building to be about the arts – performing, experiencing and participating. Lesley Bain presented a power point of detailed illustrations of the design.

MICA is a public charitable non-profit. The objective of the organization is public benefit. There are 7 user groups, including Youth Theatre Northwest.

MICA is negotiating with Farmers insurance as well as other businesses in the town center – restaurants, etc. for parking. MICA is working with traffic engineers to figure this out. Additionally 77th Avenue is a reservoir of possible parking. There is lots of unused pavement and it could accommodate parallel parking on both sides of the street.

Suzanne Zahniser, a MICA Board Member, made the point that the land is owned by the city and leased to MICA. Amber Britton explained that this is done via an inter-local agreement. The city and public will receive benefits (use) of the center in exchange for the land use. They will be able to reassess on an agreed schedule.

Approval of Minutes:

The following amendments were made to the August 12 minutes:

Under "**General**",

First bullet - first line, second sentence, change Louise to Belize.

Second bullet - place a period after the word process and strike the remainder of that sentence.

Suzanne Zahniser motioned to approve the regular Arts Council minutes of August 12, 2015 as amended. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Chair Report:

Paulette Bufano, Chair
No Report.

Mostly Music in the Park

Karen Kaser, Chair

Karen reported that she is writing an ad soliciting bands for next year's MMIP. She suggested limiting the number of entries in an effort to streamline the review process. It was determined that it could be left open if assistance was available from additional Arts Council members. Suzanne Zahniser, Joy Liechty, Joy Langley, Rene Stratton, and Erin Vivion volunteered to help with screening.

Community Relations

Joy Langley, Chair
No Report

Indoor Gallery:

Linda Iwanyk, Chair

Suzanne Zahniser reported that after extending the deadline for Juried Art Show entries, the total number received went over what was received last year (more than 30). Jurist Stephanie Hargrove selected a show that is close to 60 pieces. Suzanne thanked everyone for helping to increase entries by advertising the show.

Suzanne requested assistance hanging the show on Saturday, September 12. Ralph Bufano has already volunteered to help. Bob Still and Joy Langley indicated that they would also be able to help.

Public Art

An Tootill, Chair

An reminded everyone about the Art Uncorked event on September 11. She and Jack Emick will install up-lights at some of the outdoor gallery sculptures on Friday shortly before the event.

An asked if there are members that would like to participate in a Public Art Committee meeting next month to discuss interest in public art projects on Mercer Island for next year. Joy Liechty and Erin Vivion both indicated an interest. An will contact them with details.

Staff Report:**Amber Britton**

Amber advised the Arts Council that over the next few weeks she will be spending most of her time in a temporary office at the Community Center. She anticipates being at her own desk on Mondays only. She will advise of the phone number where she can be reached at the Community Center.

Amber spoke about renaming the Outdoor Sculpture Gallery as discussed at the last meeting. Renaming the gallery would have to be a part of the Arts Council work plan so that city council and staff are aware of it and so that it can be approved. Because of this, they will not allow the Arts Council to go forward with signage for the outdoor gallery until this is resolved.

An Tootill suggested a temporary sign to be replaced with a more permanent sign at a later time. She also would like to see signs with color distinction for public art vs. art that is for sale. It was also suggested that the gallery name could be removed from the individual plaques to eliminate the need to wait.

Amber reported that a piece of sculpture was removed from the outdoor gallery. It was Leda's Little Sister by Sara Mall Johani.

Amber gave an update on the Luther Burbank Park Mosaic Project. Artists, Jose Orantes, has completed the painting. It will now go to the glass company to make pieces for the mosaic. Classes are planned in October and February for child design. It is anticipated that the mural will be completed next spring.

Amber distributed the monthly budget report.

General:

- There is a graffiti project webinar pm September 17. Jane Brahm plans to watch and will share info. Amber said that there are also a number of graffiti project videos available on YouTube.
- Jane Brahm reported that the Gateway Sculpture is completely repaired.
- Bob Still stated that MIVAL is moving it's meetings to MICEC beginning in November.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm

An Tootill, Vice Chair

Attest:

Eileen Hemmis Trifts, Scribe