



ARTS COUNCIL MINUTES

AUGUST 12, 2015

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm by Chair, Paulette Bufano.

Roll Call

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

City Council:

Council Member Jane Meyer Brahm.

Staff:

Amber Britton and Eileen Hemmis Trifts

Observer: Sal Funtz, interested community member

Approval of Minutes

Karen Kaser motioned to approve the regular Arts Council minutes of July 8, 2015 as presented. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Chair Report:

Paulette Bufano, Chair

Paulette reviewed summer activities to date and congratulated everyone on their success.

She spoke about "Art Uncorked" and asked if council members saw any value in having a physical booth at this event this year. Following a short discussion, a unanimous show of hands determined that a booth is not warranted.

Mostly Music in the Park

Karen Kaser, Chair

Karen reported that the first three concerts all had good turnouts and went well. She spoke about strategizing with Amber to streamline choosing bands for next year.

Amber indicated that she got very good feedback on the Cuban band and dancing. The instructor turned out to be a great idea and worked out well.

Jane Brahm spoke about the interest in having more concerts, and especially bringing back the Sunday concerts. She suggested that since this isn't in the budget, perhaps consider passing the hat for donations at the concerts.

Suzanne Zahniser reported that the Russian Chamber Orchestra performance this Saturday is on track and things are running smoothly. There is some concern about parking as they are expecting as many as 600 attendees. Amber stated that there is limited parking at Luther Burbank Park and the Russian Chamber Orchestra wants to perform in the Amphitheatre. It is too late to do anything to add alleviate parking congestion for this concert. She suggested that a shuttle from city hall might be a consideration for next year.

Community Relations

Joy Langley, Chair

Joy reported that the Cultural Access bill passed and has the potential to increase 4Culture funding as much as four times. It will now go to the public. She will let everyone know when it is on the ballot.

Indoor Gallery:

Linda Iwanyk, Chair

Suzanne Zahnizer reported that 10 entries have been received to date for the Juried Art Show. The deadline has been extended one week until August 24. She felt there were two options if additional entries are not received.

1. Ask the jurist to review the entries to see if there is enough to go forward with a smaller show and find the money elsewhere in the budget.
2. Cancel the juried art show and find another artist/group to fill the vacancy.

The unanimous decision was to find the money in the budget and ask the jurist to look through the entries to determine whether or not a show is viable.

Amber will email a current budget report to members. Arts Council members will promote the exhibit at various venues through their contacts in the art community.

Public Art

An Tootill, Chair

An spoke about the successful unveiling of the two new sculptures by artist Shawn Marie Johnson; Memories of a Heron and Bird Mountain in the outdoor gallery. An is concerned that there doesn't seem to be an established name for the sculpture park. She asked Jane Brahm where the city is regarding new signage. Amber is working on the placards for these two pieces. An felt it is important for sale pieces to have one of the new placards. She would also like Amber to research having the same company do a sign containing a roster of works. Something that is changeable as pieces rotate in and out of the gallery.

Further discussion of a name for the sculpture park resulted in the suggestion that it be named after Greta Hackett, a council woman and key force behind the gallery. The preference would be to keep the word "gallery" in the title. Amber indicated that she would present this to Parks and Recreation for consideration.

Jack Emick is researching up-lighting for six sculptures during the Art Uncorked event. The best quote to date is \$50 per light including delivery and installation. He originally thought to rent two lights per sculpture, but after a short discussion it was agreed that one light per sculpture would be adequate.

Jack Emick made a motion to fund up to \$350 for temporary lighting of sculptures during the Art Uncorked Event. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

The sculpture "Rotating Rings" was recently sold to David Tootill. It will move out of the Outdoor Gallery in October, leaving space for something new.

Staff Report:

Amber Britton

Amber reported that the south fire station is complete. She suggested everyone go by to check out the art.

General:

- Jack Emick gave an update on Light Rail Station Art. Louise Brother has been chosen as the artist. There will be points along the way where the committee will be able to weigh in. The design is to be finalized by 2017 with installation in 2023. It was noted that the MI light rail station design has not yet been approved by the Arts Council. Amber Britton will check with Assistant City Manager, Kirsten Taylor, to find out where they are with the redesign.
- Suzanne Zahnizer gave an update on Mercer Island Center for the Arts (MICA). They are half way through the building design process, having raised and spent \$700,000 to date. They

continue to work with the City and users to refine how they will use the new center. MICA is a \$25 million dollar campaign to include a one million dollar operating reserve. They have raised almost \$5 million. They anticipate breaking ground in 2017 with completion in 2018. Suzanne stated that there are some lease requirements that will have to be addressed in order to qualify for 4Culture and Microsoft funding. Suzanne will invite the MICA Chair to make a presentation at the September Arts Council meeting.

There was a discussion about the controversy over the choice of Mercerdale Park as the site choice for MICA. It was noted that the site choice was very carefully thought out and explored. There were many community meetings before a decision was reached. Ultimately, it is a use of public space for the public and it is within the cities purview.

- City Council Member Jane Brahm brought the new "Twin Foxes" sculpture to the meeting to share. The sculpture is to be installed outside of City Hall. Jane spoke about the Sister City preference that it be placed in a natural setting on a bolder rather than on a formal base. It was generally agreed that this is the Arts Council preference as well. The Public Art Chair, An Totill, will visit City Hall to see where the sculpture might best be located.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm

Paulette Bufano, Chair

Attest:

Eileen Hemmis Trifts, Scribe