



ARTS COUNCIL MINUTES

JUNE 10, 2015

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm by Chair, Paulette Bufano.

Roll Call

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

City Council:

Council Member Jane Meyer Brahm

Staff:

Amber Britton and Eileen Hemmis Trifts

Approval of Minutes

Joy Langley motioned to approve the regular Arts Council minutes of May 13, 2015 as presented. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Chair Report:

Paulette Bufano, Chair

Gratitude Graffiti Project: Paulette requested an update on the Gratitude Graffiti Project from Council Member Suzanne Zahnizer.

Suzanne reported that she met with Recreation Superintendent Diane Mortenson. They are looking at a 40-day time span around Thanksgiving to tie in with a time of year when it is traditional to celebrate being grateful. Outdoor locations might include windows in downtown and south end businesses, MIVAL's storefront, as well as MICA. The MI Community & Event Center and the schools might be good indoor locations. It would be advertised and promoted the same as other Parks & Recreation activities.

Suzanne reported that Diane has asked for a member of the Arts Council to work with Terry Moreman at the Chamber of Commerce to identify businesses for window space. Jack Emick and Erin Vivion both indicated an interest. Suzanne will pass this information along to Diane.

Paulette suggested the project could be photographed daily or a couple of times a week and posted on Facebook and/or the MIAC webpage to share the results.

Amber reported that the City Council was concerned that this might look like we are encouraging graffiti. Amber explained to the Council that the plans for this project are in the early stages and that encouraging graffiti is not the intent. In light of City Council concerns, it was agreed by the Arts Council that the word graffiti could be taken out of the title. From this point forward it will be referred to as **Gratitude Art**, making sure that we let people know that they are invited to post their words and/or art. Additionally, there will be rules for posters – no profanity, etc. It will have to be monitored to take down anything offensive in a timely manner. Paulette will call a planning meeting to go forward with plans for the project. Amber suggested advertising it at Summer Celebration. Kind of a teaser with an explanation of the vision for it.

Mostly Music in the Park (MMIP)

Karen Kaser, Chair

Karen reported that she will be sending out a sign-up sheet to MIAC members to introduce the bands at the upcoming Mostly Music in the Park concerts as well as Shakespeare performances.

Karen stated that she has been approached to hire a dance instructor for the Supersones concert. Instruction wouldn't require a dance floor, but could be done in the grass. Karen indicated that there is money available in the MMIP budget if the Council wants her to pursue this. Amber didn't see a problem with it as long as it doesn't interfere with the sound check just prior to the performance. The Arts Council agreed that it would be a fun thing to do, and that since it is not the first concert it can be promoted at prior concerts. Karen will look into finding an instructor.

Community Relations

Joy Langley, Chair

Joy reported on Summer Celebration progress. She has several ideas for the booth, and pirate theme crafts for different age groups. There are a number of options, depending on the budget. Paulette requested that Joy send her the list.

Joy reported on the status of Cultural Access bills that are currently being addressed in special sessions by the State Legislature.

- (1) SB 5463 - A cultural access bill that will add 1/10 of a cent to sales tax on \$10 in sales. If passed, funding would be funneled through 4Culture. It has already passed through the senate. It will go to the people for a vote.
- (2) HB 2263 - Providing local governments with options to strengthen their communities by providing services and facilities for people with mental illness, developmental disabilities, and other vulnerable populations, and by increasing access to educational experiences through cultural organizations. A new development is that they have tied a mental health component to this bill. It is expected that this bill will pass.

Indoor Gallery:

Linda Iwanyk, Chair

Linda thanked Karen Kaser for her assistance with hanging the Brain Injury Alliance of Washington (BIAWA) show in the gallery on Saturday. She stated that there were also a number of volunteers from BIAWA that helped with the hanging. The reception is Thursday, June 11 from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. All of the art was created by individuals that have suffered traumatic brain injuries. It was noted that Evening Magazine is doing a piece on the show. They will be at the gallery tomorrow to shoot.

Public Art

An Tootill, Chair

No report

Staff Report:

Amber Britton

Twin Foxes – Amber asked where the Arts Council would like the sculpture to be installed. It will be arriving soon. Paulette stated that the Council decided at their last meeting that they would like it installed in or around City Hall. Paulette will contact Diane and work with her to find the right location – somewhere that it will be noticed.

There is a Mercer Island resident who is a film producer. Amber reported that he approached the Parks Department to see if there was interest in showing some of his short films (each about 15-20 minutes long). He wouldn't charge anything. He could do a discussion on each film. Paulette volunteered to review his videos to see if they might be of interest. Amber will send her the links.

The Fabulous Roof Shakers, one of our MMIP bands, contacted the Parks Facilities coordinator to find out about using the Amphitheatre to offer free performances. She passed their request along to Amber to see if the Arts Council is interested in sponsoring them, in which case the permit fee could be waived. They are a blues band. The Arts Council agreed to sponsor them.

Sound Transit Art Selection Committee is reconvening and they are looking for an Arts Council member to sit on the Committee. They will be meeting in July for 2 half-day meetings to jury art that is proposed for Mercer Island. Paulette nominated Jack Emick. He agreed to the appointment. Amber will send them his contact information. Paulette agreed to be the alternate.

General Announcements:

Suzanne reported that the Mercer Island Center for the Arts is holding their first public meeting on the 23rd of June, 7-9 pm at the Community & Event Center. She will forward the invitation to Arts Council members and she asked them to forward it to anyone they think might be interested.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm

Paulette Bufano, Chair

Attest:

Eileen Hemmis Trifts, Scribe