



# ARTS COUNCIL MINUTES

## FEBRUARY 11, 2015

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### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm by Vice-Chair, An Tootill.

### **Roll Call**

Members Present: Jack Emick, Anna Gordon, Linda Iwanyk, Karen Kaser, An Tootill, Erin Vivion and Suzanne Zahniser. Absent: Paulette Bufano

City Council:

Council Member Jane Meyer Brahm.

Staff:

Amber Britton and Eileen Hemmis Trifts

### **Approval of Minutes**

Anna Gordon motioned to approve the regular Arts Council minutes of January 14, 2015 as presented. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

### **Vice Chair Report:**

An Tootill

An introduced new member, Jack Emick. Everyone introduced themselves and gave a bit of information on their programs/committees what they are currently working on. Mr. Emick gave a brief report on his background and interests.

An reported that Chair, Paulette Bufano has met with Committee Chairs and that Associate Chairs are being sought for both the Indoor Gallery and Outdoor Gallery Committees. Jack Emick said that he would be interested in either one or both positions. Chairs for those committees indicated they will contact him.

### **Literary:**

Anna Gordon, Chair

Anna reported that she has been in touch with Susan Szafir, who has been handling the author series portion of the Literary Program, just to be sure she wants to continue to do so. She hasn't received a response yet. If so, we can go ahead and find authors for this year. She asked for author recommendations from Arts Council members. Anna indicated that she would like to convene a small group to meet with Lance Rhoades and share ideas on film opportunities. If interested, please let her know.

### **Mostly Music in the Park (MMIP)**

Karen Kaser, Chair

Karen reported that she would like to review with Amber the process for choosing bands for MMIP. She would like to identify a way to streamline the process. Suzanne felt that opening up the submissions like we did this year results in more submissions and more work for the committee, but a stronger line-up. Amber felt there might be some better ways of splitting it up so that not all of the work falls on one person.

Karen reported that the five bands chosen by the MMIP Committee this year are:

Jul 23: West My Friend - *Indie Folk*

Jul 30: Wings N Things - *Beatles Cover Band*

Aug 6: SupeSones - *Cuban Salsa Roots*

Aug 13: The Warren G. Hardings - *Traditional String Band*

Aug 20: The Fabulous Roof Shakers - *Rhythm & Blues*

Amber stated that she has been in contact with MIVAL, and they will bring artwork for consideration for the MMIP poster to next month's meeting.

### **Indoor Gallery:**

Linda Iwanyk, Chair

Linda reported that a new gallery exhibit, Harmony of Color, will open February 23. It will be hung on Saturday, February 21 beginning at noon. Assistance is always appreciated. The reception will be held February 26, 6:30-8 pm.

### **Juried Art Show – Suzanne Zahniser**

Suzanne reported that an invitation was extended to Stephanie Hargrave to be the jurist for the show, and that she has accepted. She teaches at Pratt, is very well-known and comes highly recommended.

### **Public Art**

An Tootill, Chair

An reported that she met with Sandy Glass, the artist liaison for the mosaic to be installed at the Luther Burbank playground. We should be seeing a design as Sandy is anxious to send it off to be converted into tiles so they can start this summer. The mural should be finished in 2016. An stated that Sandy would like for Jose to have an exhibit at the Community Center coinciding with the mural. Amber stated that she gave Sandy a link to the application for Jose and asked her to be sure that he makes a note on the application stating that he would like to exhibit in conjunction with the opening of the playground art. An thought it would be around August or September of 2016.

### **Community Relations:**

Chair, Vacant

No Report

### **Staff Report:**

Amber Britton

Amber gave the following progress reports:

**South Fire Station:** Amber reported that there has been a delay with the metal fabricator.

Contractors have been changed and there are some logistics to be coordinated. The station itself is finishing up with landscaping and they expect to be finished in March. The art may not be installed by that time. We are working out the details regarding the dedication date. In initial conversations the Fire Department is leaning toward making it the Saturday of Summer Celebration. An polled Arts Council members to see whether or not they thought this was a good idea. The majority did not.

**An Tootill motioned that The Arts Council, being instrumental in bringing the 9/11 girder to the MI Fire Station, proposes that we find a date other than Summer Celebration to dedicate the new South-end Fire Department. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

Amber indicated that she would pass this along to the Fire Department. An suggested the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, the weekend before Summer Celebration, as a possible date.

**Damage to Sculpture Park:** Amber indicated that she doesn't have an update on repairing the damaged art. City attorneys and the driver's insurance company are working on it. Diane Mortenson has contacted the artists to get repair estimates.

An asked if with the delays in light rail is the outdoor gallery at risk? Amber indicated that she hasn't heard anything on this. Jane Meyer Brahm stated that the outdoor gallery was among 13 sites in the downtown area close to the light rail area as possible parking lot locations. However, she felt it would never become a parking lot. She indicated that Kite Hill was considered first as a site for a commuter parking lot built by Sound Transit for the period of time that the Bellevue Park and Ride is being redone. That is now off the table. There are other sites in Bellevue that are being looked at.

Given the fact that Kite Hill is no longer being considered as a parking garage site, Anna suggested that the timing could be right to say that might be a good site for public art. An stated that the idea of a kinetic sculpture had been discussed in the past, but nothing came of it. Anna said she might research some possibilities. An encouraged her to do so and to bring her suggestions to the Public Art Committee. Amber said a call for artist and a special agenda bill for the City Council would be necessary since it wasn't something that was included in the budget this year.

**Work Plan:** The annual report and work plan have been moved to the consent agenda in the end of March. Amber will be out of the office for an extended time for a personal matter. If you have anything immediate, contact Diane Mortenson or Eileen.

Amber indicated that she is waiting on a few things before she can complete the budget. Once she gets them, she will finish and email it to everyone. Nothing has been spent yet, so she did not bring expenditures to date.

**General:**

Suzanne Zahniser reported that Bruce Fletcher and Diane Mortenson of the Parks Department met with members of the MICA Board. The purpose of the meeting was to start talking about ways that the city could take advantage of the new Arts Center. Several of the ideas were related to the Arts Council. The Black Box theatre opens up to the park and could be available for performances such as Shakespeare in the Park and Mostly Music in the Park. Diane suggested a screen that could pull down outside for showing movies in the park. The Parks Department will look at the possibility of altering the grounds just outside of this area with a small hill that could be used a viewing space. Inside the Arts Center there is some exhibit space so the Arts Council may have the opportunity to put up more shows than they currently do. Suzanne stated that the Arts Center architects will be working directly with the city to be sure that the building does what the city needs.

With regard to the Community Center Master Plan, Amber said it is her understanding that it will happen this budget which includes this year and next, and the art room will be addressed. With regard to the displaced art programs, the Arts Council asked Amber to convey to the Parks Director that they would like something in place for the interim.

An commented that she would like to continue to find ways to bring in a younger point of view and gain more mutual attention for the arts on Mercer Island. She felt it would be worthwhile to find something besides Shakespeare and to exploit the "mostly" part of Mostly Music in the Park. Amber indicated that the films are returning this year. There are two outdoor family films scheduled for this summer that should be of interest to a younger crowd. Jack suggested contacting Cornish to see if they might be interested in doing something.

In response to a question from Anna, Amber indicated that there was a conscious decision not to pursue the Graffiti Project this year. However, she is sure Diane is still interested in pursuing it with the Arts Council. Amber will reach out to her to see if she has a date in mind. It could be incorporated in the work plan. Suzanne asked Amber to convey to Diane that if she is overloaded and she can figure out how to offload some of it to the Arts Council, it is a project they are very interested in.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm

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An Tootill, Vice-Chair

Attest:

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Eileen Hemmis Trifts, Scribe