



ARTS COUNCIL MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

JANUARY 8, 2014

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 pm by Chair Jane Ditzler at the Mercer Island Community & Event Center.

Roll Call

Members Present: Bonnie Bradley, Jane Ditzler, Anna Gordon, Linda Iwanyk, Karen Kaser, Mireya Lewin, Susan Szafir, An Tootill and Susanne Zahniser. Members Absent: Paulette Bufano and Julian Trejo.

City Council:

Council Member Jane Meyer Brahm.

Staff:

Amber Britton & Eileen Hemmis Trifts

Appearances:

Michel Martel, Executive Director, Music Works Northwest, 14360 SE Eastgate Way, Suite 102, Bellevue, WA 98007

Mr. Martel introduced himself and gave the Arts Council some background on Music Works Northwest which is a nonprofit community music school currently located in Bellevue. Their mission is to enrich the quality of life for children of all ages through accessible music education and experiences. This is accomplished in a variety of ways which include individual and group instruction, music therapy, summer music camps, free community music concerts, and a recording and film scoring studio. Additional information is available on their website: www.musicworksnw.org.

Mr. Martel advised the Arts Council that their current challenge is that they will be losing the Eastgate location in June of this year, and relocation expenses are projected to be extremely high due to the need for soundproof premises. They are planning to decentralize their current operation by moving to a smaller space and adding satellite locations in nearby communities. They are interested in Mercer Island for this purpose. Mr. Martel indicated that they are especially interested in the new performance center and a partnership with Youth Theatre Northwest.

Chair, Jane Ditzler, asked Mr. Martel what Music Works Northwest is looking for from the Arts Council. He replied that it is an expensive proposition to relocate the school and they do not have that money. They need community support to help fund the relocation and in finding a convenient space to relocate. Initially, they will need about 2,000 square feet which will provide them with approximately four individual studios plus a classroom. Jane stated that the Arts Council does not fund outside organizations, but they could help promote what they are doing and perhaps help with finding a space on Mercer Island. Jane wished Mr. Martel and Music Works Northwest the best. She indicated that the Arts Council will review his requests and let him know what is possible.

At this point, Mr. Martel left the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

An Tootill motioned for approval of the December 12, 2013 regular meeting minutes. Motion was seconded and passed.

Chair Report:

Jane Ditzler, Chair

Jane reported that she contacted sitting Committee Chairs and all have agreed to continue in their positions for an additional year as follows.

- Literary & Shakespeare, Susan Szafir
- Mostly Music in the Park, Paulette Bufano
- Gallery, Linda Iwanyk
- Public Art, An Tootill
- Community Relations, Bonnie Bradley

Jane asked Arts Council members to consider signing up to assist committee chairs. Karen Kaser indicated that she might be interested in assisting with the outdoor gallery. She would like more information on the requirements. Jane suggested that An, Linda, and Karen get together to determine the best way to go forward. Amber stated that Paulette will need assistance to screen musicians for Mostly Music in the Park in January and February. Suzanne, Bonnie, Karen and Jane volunteered to assist Paulette.

Jane reported that 'Arts Day' in Olympia is scheduled for February 5, from 8 am to 3 pm. She is planning to attend. Karen Kaser and Linda Iwanyk indicated that they would be interested in attending as well. Jane suggested they carpool.

Jane confirmed that Dale Cox is working with Diane Mortenson, Recreation Superintendent, to donate a bench in memory of Darcy Cox.

Annual Reports and Work Plans will go to the City Council for approval in late February or early March. Amber indicated she has most of the Annual Report information needed. Jane asked committee chairs to start on their portion of the Work Plan.

Staff Report

Amber Britton
No Report

Literary:

Susan Szafir, Chair

Susan reported that there is a literary event scheduled at Island Books on February 26. The featured author is Margaret Wrinkle and her book is "Wash"; a debut novel about slave breeding during the post civil war slave era. Start time is 7:30 pm. On March 13, Robin Oliveira, a local author will be featured. Her book is a historical fiction entitled "I Always Loved You", a novel of Mary Cassatt and Edgar Degas's great romance

Mostly Music in the Park

Paulette Bufano, Chair
No Report

Gallery:

Linda Iwanyk, Chair

Linda reported that the first gallery show for 2014 was hung on Saturday, January 4th. She gave thanks to Karen Kaser and Bonnie Bradley with family and friends for their assistance. The reception is scheduled for Thursday, January 9, 6:30 to 8:00 pm. Featured artists are Photographers Ron Reeder & Judith Roan and Ruth Gross with watercolors by Wanda Hughes. The next show is scheduled to be hung on February 22. Karen Kaser and Bonnie Bradley volunteered to help hang this show as well.

Public Art

An Tootill, Chair

An reported that a "call for artist" will go out for the Tennis Wall mural on Monday. Jane asked about the status of the Mosaic project. Amber stated with the budget freeze at the end of last year we didn't have any money for this project. It was approved by the Arts Council, so now that we are in the new budget year, we can proceed with that project.

Collection Management

Mireya Lewin, Lead

Mireya Lewin stated that she wasn't at the last meeting but understands that the Arts Council would like more information before proceeding with Stqry. Mireya reviewed the proposal from Stqry and what would be required from the Arts Council.

Suzanne made a motion to approve and engage Stqry to provide an online presence of our public art and to publicize Arts Council Events.

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Mireya will contact Jennifer Smith from Stqry and invite her to the February Arts Council meeting to make a presentation to the Arts Council. In the meantime Arts Council members will review their website to help formulate a better understanding of what they can do, and what the Arts Council wants to achieve with the site. Amber indicated that we should have the money in our budget to pay the fee for the first year.

Community Relations Chair,
Bonnie Bradley Philanthropy
and Development

Bonnie stated that she would like to see the Arts Council make fundraising and developing community relations more of a priority. She would like to create and formalize a philanthropy program, and tie it to the budget. She suggested taking our strategic plan, costing it out for the year, and then set that as the fundraising goal. It would then be a matter of making a plan to raise it, using things like auctions, galas, raffles for artwork, quilts, etc. It could then be monitored to see what works and what doesn't. Bonnie stated that she would like to see this going forward with our new budget. Amber stated that staff is beginning work on the 2015-2016 budget which will be finalized this summer.

Jane commented that in the past the Arts Council has successfully held fundraisers - auctions, dances and other events. Recent fundraising attempts have not done as well, and she thinks it may be because there is now so much more available for the public to choose from, that nothing does well. Susan felt that it is important for the Arts Council to communicate to the community who they are and what they do in order to become better known and for fundraising to be effective.

Mireya noted that there is the possibility of getting donations through Stqry. The Arts Council will have a donation button on the Stqry website. Stqry processes the donations and charges a small processing fee.

Bonnie stated that for this year she would really like to see the mosaics get going again. Amber stated that the Arts Council applied for a grant to accomplish this, but didn't get it. However, she felt that there should be money available in the budget to pay Sandi and Jose to submit a proposal. Their proposal would then go to the City Council with a request for approval to fund the project from 1% for the Arts.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm

Jane Ditzler, Chair

Attest:

Eileen Hemmis Trifts, Scribe