

MINUTES FOR THE ARTS COMMISSION MEETING
3/11/92

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sandra Brown, Mary Buss, Vic Crumbacker, Steve Laiche, Larry Mazzeno, Allison Sarmo, and Julie Schroeder-Wright.

OTHERS PRESENT: Michael Gerlach, Pat Gormley, Quentin Jones, Kirk McConnell, Darlene Skipper, and Terry Wakefield.

The meeting was called to order by Allison Sarmo at 7:05 pm. Pat Gormley of the Avalon Commission presented an update on progress to renovate the Avalon Theater. He noted that the City has already invested \$30,000 in the project, having agreed to pay the taxes on the building for the past two years and committing to pay for the upcoming year. During his briefing Mr. Gormley:

- provided Commission members copies of correspondence and plans for the building so that we would have a "history" of the project and a sense of what would be done if funding is found.

- noted that the group spearheading the project was organizing as a non-profit corporation.

- discussed the status of the renovations and the costs as judged by the architect hired to examine the structure.

- addressed issues of funding, both for renovations and for operations once the theater is completed.

Representatives of the Grand West Summer Festival briefed the Commission on plans for a performing-arts summer program to be held July 30 through August 2 in Grand Junction. Dr. Michael Gerlach, President of Grand West, gave an overview of the organization's aims; Terry Wakefield, Program Director, outlined specific activities planned for the weekend; Quentin Jones, Treasurer, presented the group's budget needs. Darlene Skipper, Secretary/Treasurer, provided the Commission attractive materials outlining information presented in the briefings by other officers.

The Grand West asked the Commission to underwrite its operations with a \$7000 contribution; upon inquiry, the Grand West officers agreed that their request was for a \$5355 grant and a \$1645 loan to allow them to purchase souvenirs; a portion of the profits from sales would be returned to the Commission to repay the loan. After the Grand West representatives departed, the Commission discussed the feasibility and desirability of providing the funds. The Commission voted unanimously to contribute \$5000 specifically designated in the 1992 budget for such events.

Sarmo updated the Commission on the status of the Cultural Facilities Study which was to be done as part of the Parks & Recreation Master Plan. She noted that there had been some confusion on the part of the City staff regarding the necessity for including the Cultural Facilities Study in this plan, but

that the difficulties had apparently been resolved. A copy of the contract with an independent consultant will be provided to the Commission.

Kirk McConnell met with the Commission to discuss on-going projects to promote the arts in Grand Junction. He distributed drafts of a brochure on Arts Organizations in Grand Junction for the Commission's review. He also solicited ideas for formatting databases to be of most use to the Commission. He reported that he would have a brochure of arts educational opportunities prepared by the end of the month; the Commission directed the subcommittee charged with oversight of that project to meet with McConnell to review progress.

Sarmo briefed Commission members on the status of the plan to form a Cultural District. The Steering Committee for that group will hold public meetings on 3/20 and 3/26, and all area arts organizations have been invited to attend.

Sarmo also briefed Commission members on a conversation she had with Mark Gallegos of the State Bonding Authority, who informed her that the funds can be used only to construct buildings, but that revenues generated from taxes such as the one proposed for the Cultural District could be used to pay off the bond debt. The City and the County already have authority to issue such bonds.

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for 4/8 at City Hall, 7:00pm.