

MINUTES OF THE CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION  
COMMISSION ON ARTS AND CULTURE

JUNE 29, 1994

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Paula Andrews  
Sandra Brown  
Cassie Castleberry  
Phillip Freitas  
Ursula Hemmerich  
Karen Kiefer  
Jeanne Killgore  
Richard Leinaweaver  
Ann Sanders

GUESTS PRESENT: Deniese Kohles and Joy Rayside.

Chair Sandra Brown convened the regular meeting of the Commission at 4:10 p.m. Castleberry moved, and Leinaweaver seconded, that the minutes of the previous meeting, May 25, 1994, be approved as written and mailed. The motion carried unanimously.

BUSINESS IN THE ARTS AWARD COMMITTEE: Andrews reported that the award ceremony has been scheduled for July 20, at 5:00 p.m., in the lobby of the downtown Norwest Bank building. She stated that Norwest president Bill Petty has offered to match the Commission's \$1400 which is to be used to purchase the artwork award, and that Petty asked the Commission to chose a piece of statuary, and place it on public display, perhaps at the new headquarters of the Visitors and Convention Bureau. Various locations were discussed as well as the appropriateness of Norwest's contributing funds for their own award. Castleberry moved that the committee contact all sculptors listed in The Source to find out what works they have available for sale, but the motion died for lack of a second. Castleberry moved, and Kiefer seconded, that Norwest be allowed to match the Commission's funds for purchase of the award statue. The motion carried, Leinaweaver opposed, Hemmerich abstaining. It was decided to mail a letter to all local sculptors asking for pieces in a range of \$1400-\$2800, installed, and Norwest will be offered two or three from which to chose. It was also decided to display the statue at the VCB building on Horizon Drive.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Kiefer reported that the Commission has just opened its own bank account at Norwest Bank with \$5000 from the City. She also reported that the Colorado Council on the Arts has awarded the Commission a general operating support grant for 1995 in the amount of \$2000, based on our 1994 budget, and we will receive this money in mid-December.

ART EXPERIENCES FOR CHILDREN COMMITTEE: Deniese Kohles presented a written report outlining the after school art classes taught at three area schools during the 1993-1994 school year. The report showed the numerous art programs offered and the revenues (\$3 per child per class) and expenditures (materials costs and teacher salaries). Kohles said that next year they hope to expand the program to eight schools, and noted that in the future the school district plans to pick up several aspects of this program within the local schools because the state will be requiring establishment of art education standards which all schools must meet. She thanked the Commission for their financial support.

STRATEGIC CULTURAL PLAN COMMITTEE: Brown reported that the first step in updating the City's Strategic Cultural Plan, adopted in 1991, is to have Tom Ralser of the Western Colorado Bureau of Business and Economic Research do a new telephone survey to find out community cultural attitudes and activities. Copies of the original survey and copies of the Museum of Western Colorado's recently completed survey were distributed for ideas about what questions to ask. Kiefer and Hemmerich volunteered to assist Brown and Sarmo in determining questions for the survey and a meeting was scheduled for Friday, July 8, at 9:00 a.m. in the Commission's office.

JUST A BUNCH OF ARTISTS: Brown reported that JABOA's major projects currently are jurying the visual arts exhibition at the Colorado Consortium of Community Arts Council's September conference in Montrose and planning an exhibition of their own this summer.

AVALON THEATER, INC.: Andrews reported that the closing date for purchase of the Avalon Theater by the City and DDA is tentatively set for July 1, and that the estimate for reconstruction of the facade is \$200,000.

WESTERN COLORADO CENTER FOR THE ARTS: Leinaweaver reported having attended the last meeting of the Art Center board and Castleberry requested that Leinaweaver be appointed representative to that organization in her stead, which Brown did.

MISSULA CHILDREN'S THEATER PRODUCTION: Freitas reported that the production will begin rehearsals September 25 and performances will be the weekend of October 1 at the Avalon Theater, coinciding with the downtown's Octoberfest. He noted that the DooZoo Children's Museum will manage the production and that Sam's Club has already done a fund raiser for the event.

MESA REPERTORY DANCE: Joy Rayside presented a proposal and request for funding from students with the Mesa Repertory Dance Company who plan to present a free dance concert Friday, August 20 on the Mesa State College campus. Total estimated expenses are \$1300. Castleberry moved and Killgore seconded that the Commission give \$650 to the Mesa Repertory Dance Company students for their free summer dance concert. The motion carried, Sanders abstaining.

CULTURAL ARTS COORDINATOR REPORT: Sarmo presented a written report of her monthly activities, noting that the majority of her time during this first month on the job has been getting the new office established, organizing several boxes of miscellaneous papers and correspondence, distribution of the newly updated sourcebook of local artists, and general staffing/clerical functions. Brown noted that there are still unresolved problems regarding whether Sarmo is to be considered an independent contractor or an employee of the Commission, that the job had been advertised as an employee position, with no benefits other than social security contributions because the assistant city manager had instructed Brown to obtain a Federal Employer Identification Number and a Colorado Wage Withholding License, presumably for the purpose of making social security contributions. Both Freitas and Kiefer, small business owners themselves, stated that Sarmo did not meet any of the regulations and guidelines for being an independent contractor, and could not legally be considered anything but an employee. Sarmo noted that she did not wish to open a business, and that the IRS had told her doing so would cost an additional \$2000 in federal

income taxes. Hemmerich noted that the city manager had informed her that the Commission was incurring some insurance liability problems because of their new employee, and Sarmo was instructed to make sure Commission members are covered under the City's errors and omissions insurance policy, and to find out what workmen's compensation insurance is necessary. The Commission decided to pay Sarmo for her first month of work and continue to work toward resolving the employment question with the City.

Sarmo noted that the computer donated to the Commission two years ago needs to be repaired, asking that rather than repair an outdated machine the Commission purchase a new computer for approximately \$1500. Sanders moved and Kiefer seconded that a new computer be purchased and that Sarmo obtain three bids to do so. The motion carried unanimously.

There was a discussion about the Commission becoming a member of the Chamber of Commerce, the Museum, the Art Center, the Avalon Theater, and other arts organizations but the matter was tabled for further consideration.

A copy of the draft Scientific and Cultural Facilities District ballot question submitted by the Museum to the Mesa County Commissioners on June 27 was discussed, and whether the Commission or the City should take a stand on this issue. Brown reported on the cultural district meeting called by the Commission June 15. Castleberry moved and Hemmerich seconded to continue the discussion after obtaining the final version of the ballot question, which should be decided upon July 6. The motion carried, Freitas opposed.

A copy of the draft historic preservation ordinance to be submitted by the DDA and the Community Development Department to the City Council was discussed. Brown read a proposed letter from the Commission supporting the concept of a historic preservation ordinance. Castleberry moved and Killgore seconded that the letter be approved as written. The motion carried unanimously.

Castleberry asked that due to the time her slide presentation be postponed until the next regular meeting.

Sanders presented a copy of the Aspen/Snowmass Council on the Arts new quarterly newspaper Artifacts. Various ideas for a new cultural events calendar were discussed and Brown appointed a calendar committee including herself, Andrews, Kiefer, Killgore, and Sanders to decide on what form the calendar would take. A meeting was set for Monday, July 18 at 9:00 in the Commission's office.

The next regular meeting of the Commission will be Wednesday, July 27 at 4:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Allison Cowan Sarmo  
Cultural Arts Coordinator

CULTURAL ARTS COORDINATOR

REPORT FOR JUNE, 1994

TASKS ACCOMPLISHED:

- Set up a new office for the Commission on Arts and Culture within the Downtown Development Authority's offices (spent well over a week sorting boxes of correspondence, files, and miscellaneous papers--filled a two drawer filing cabinet), got office supplies, arranged room, installed phone.
- Press release sent to all media about the new office and new job, which appeared in the Daily Sentinel and will appear in the Colorado West Business Journal (also sent to State of the Arts).
- Attended a meeting on June 8 at the suggestion of Jane Quimby about the establishment of educational standards in reading, writing, science, etc.
- Arranged a meeting on June 15 about the formation of a Scientific and Cultural Facilities District.
- Distributed copies of The Source to Chamber of Commerce, library, VCB, all local galleries, the GJ Symphony office, Museum, and mailed a copy to everyone listed in the book.
- Hooked up computer only to find the printer doesn't work (belongs to Michael Smedley who took it home) and the computer doesn't work well (takes ten minutes to warm up and two keys are erratic).
- Attended Museum of Western Colorado board meeting on June 16 re cultural district ballot question.
- Press release sent to DDA and Chamber for their newsletters about the Business in the Arts award. (Notification will go to all media in July.)
- Delivered old appreciation plaques to Mary Buss and Julie Wright.
- Typed and mailed agenda to JABOA members for their July meeting.
- Mailed agenda, minutes, and memo to Commission for June meeting; obtained copies of various items for consideration and made copies.
- Opened new bank account with \$5000 for Commission at Norwest Bank.
- Organized old minutes into a notebook file (missing some in 1991 and 1992).
- Discussed cultural events calendar and scheduling with Debbie Kovalik of the VCB (it would be helpful for Commission to actively solicit event dates.)
- Most of my time to date has been spent on clerical and office functions, and getting the new office set up, arranged, organized and operating.

Total hours as of 6/29/94 - 91