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

January 25, 1995

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Paula Andrews Karen Kiefer

Cassie Castleberry Jeanne Killgore

Philip Freitas Richard Leinaweaver

Ursula Hemmerich

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Ron Maupin COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED: Ann Sanders

GUESTS PRESENT: Bertie Bingaman, Penny Heuscher, and Jimmi Price (Beautification Committee), Steve Mandell (Western Colorado Center for the Arts), and Barbara Creasman

(Downtown Development Authority).

Chair Cassie Castleberry called the regular meeting of the Commission on Arts and Culture to order at 4:00 p.m. on the above date, and a motion was made by Leinaweaver, seconded by Andrews, to approve the meeting agenda as written. The motion carried unanimously. A motion was made by Leinaweaver, seconded by Killgore, to approve the minutes of the previous meeting of December 7, 1994, with the amendment that paragraph two, page three ("he and Freitas are opposed to supporting...") should read "Leinaweaver noted that both he and Freitas are opposed to City government supporting a primarily religious group." The motion carried unanimously.

GRAND VALLEY BEAUTIFICATION COUNCIL: Bertie Bingaman made a presentation to the Commission explaining the history, goals, and mission of the Grand Valley Beautification Council, presently a Chamber of Commerce Committee but soon to become a 501(C)(3) organization. She discussed the committee's various landscape beautification projects and their awards to businesses for outstanding landscaping, and the need to make the city more attractive on a neighborhood by neighborhood basis. Penny Heuscher spoke about beautification plans included in the Orchard Mesa Master Plan, which she also worked on recently. The Commission voiced support for the concept and were willing to help in ways other than direct financial aid.

ARTS AND CRAFTS FESTIVAL: Barbara Creasman, Executive Director of the Downtown Development Authority made a presentation to the Commission asking for \$1000 to help sponsor an expanded Arts and Crafts Festival in June, 1995. She explained that this year they are adding a 5K "Run for the Arts" and a Gallery Walk/Wine Tasting to the seven downtown galleries, with possible studio tours as well. Creasman explained that the DDA is a geographically defined special district supported by a mill levy assessed to the properties included within the district boundary, and that the Downtown Association is a membership organization, supported by dues and donations, which does many downtown events and activities. The consensus of the Commission was to have *all* requests for funding go through the newly established grant process.

Creasman also suggested that the Commission consider purchasing a seat at the Avalon Theater, noting that other community groups had done so, and Castleberry suggested that the Commission members and Coordinator contribute individually, rather than use Commission funds to do so. The consensus of the Commission was to do this and everyone contributed accordingly.

There was a brief recess in honor of the retirement of Chair Castleberry, with refreshments. The Commission thanked Cassie for her years of service in the group and as chairperson.

CULTURAL ARTS COORDINATOR'S REPORT: The Coordinator's report for the month of January, 1995 was distributed. Sarmo read correspondence and numerous "thank-you" letters from arts organizations to the Commission. Sarmo read the draft of a "thank you" letter to the Museum of Western Colorado for use of the C. D. Smith building for the Commission's new office, and a motion was made by Leinaweaver, seconded by Kiefer, to approve, sign, and mail the letter. The motion carried unanimously. Sarmo read the draft of a letter to the City Council asking that the word "spouse" be deleted from Resolution #44-89, as was previously discussed. A motion was made by Leinaweaver, seconded by Killgore, to approve, sign, and mail the letter. The motion carried unanimously. Sarmo distributed the draft of a letter to the City Council requesting \$3000 to help pay for a feasibility study regarding an artist incubator facility. A motion was made by Killgore, seconded by Leinaweaver, to approve, sign, and mail the letter. The motion carried unanimously. Sarmo reviewed the Financial Report for December, 1994.

Sarmo asked if any Commissioners were planning to be in Denver March 1st and could attend the annual Colorado Arts Consortium Legislative Luncheon, but since no one had such plans, a motion was made by Killgore, seconded by Andrews, to approve \$15 for the lunch and the mileage reimbursement for Sarmo to attend. The motion carried unanimously. Sarmo asked to attend an April 28th workshop in Glenwood Springs entitled "Community Partnerships for Arts Education", and a motion was made by Andrews, seconded by Hemmerich, to approve \$20 for registration and mileage for Sarmo to attend the workshop. The motion carried unanimously.

BUSINESS IN THE ARTS COMMITTEE: Leinaweaver noted that the committee is working on selecting sculptures for the awards and Sarmo distributed a letter to be mailed to area arts organizations inviting nominations for the 1995 Business in the Arts Award. Leinaweaver moved and Killgore seconded, to approve, sign, and mail the letter. The motion carried unanimously.

BACKSTAGE AT THE ARTS: Leinaweaver reported that \$800 would cover the cost of implementing a Backstage at the Art series and that several organizations have agreed to participate, including the G. J. Symphony, the Art Center, Mesa State College, and JABOA. Leinaweaver also noted three facilities which should be added to a list of cultural facilities compiled by Sarmo: 1.) White Hall (the old Presbyterian Church), 2.) A new "black box" being installed at The Station, and, 3.) An outdoor amphitheater planned for the new botanic gardens.

AVALON THEATER: A written report from Andrews, who had to leave the meeting at 5:30, noted a gift of \$5000 to the Avalon from U S West, and an additional \$10,000 in seat purchases.

MARSHA THOMAS CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL: Hemmerich reported that the date for the festival will be the Saturday after Labor Day with music under a tent in the downtown area. A motion was made by Leinaweaver, seconded by Hemmerich, to adjourn and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Cowan Sarmo, Cultural Arts Coordinator