CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION COMMISSION ON ARTS AND CULTURE MINUTES

December 19, 1996

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Ursula Hemmerich Phil Rogers Karen Kiefer Ann Sanders Peter Ivanov Bill Whaley COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Perry Coyle, Jeanne Killgore OTHERS PRESENT: Joe Marie

The regular meeting of the Commission on Arts and Culture was held on the above date. Chair Kiefer called the meeting to order at 4:20 p.m. when a quorum was present. As there were no amendments to the meeting agenda, the chair declared the agenda approved. A motion was made by Sanders, seconded by Ivanov, to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on November 21, 1996, as written and mailed. The motion carried unanimously.

ONE PERCENT FOR THE ARTS PROGRAM: The Commission reviewed the numerous benefits of a 1% for the Arts Program for major City capital construction projects, noting advantages such as: 1.) Enhancement the quality of life and market appeal of an area for its residents and visitors, 2.) Helping make Grand Junction beautiful and memorable in a positive way, 3.) Helping give community identify, preserve cultural heritage, and increase community pride, and 4.) One percent could be taken from the construction contingency fund and in the overall budget costs very little to make a major impact. A definition of what would constitute a "major" project was addressed and after some discussion the consensus was to propose a 1% for the Arts ordinance for capital improvement projects with an estimated cost of \$200,000 or more. Sarmo noted that the Commission was scheduled to appear at the City Council Workshop January 13, 1997 to present their annual report and the I% for the Arts idea.

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE ARTS SURVEY: The Commission discussed updating their 1992 *Economic Impact of the Arts in Grand Junction* report, Sarmo noting that they might get help through Mesa State College's Arts Administration class to conduct the survey of local arts organizations expenditures. The consensus was that Commission members themselves should personally telephone arts organizations and encourage them to fill out and return the survey forms. The board decided an update would be beneficial and should be undertaken this spring.

AMENDMENTS TO COMMISSION BY-LAWS: After a discussion about absenteeism at Commission meetings and the lack of definition of the phrase "reasonable cause", Sanders moved, and Whaley seconded, that Article III, Section 5-B of the By-laws of the Commission on Arts and Culture be changed to read "Failure to attend four (4) regularly scheduled meetings of the Commission in a calendar year shall result in a recommendation to the City Council for removal of the member." After further discussion, Ivanov moved, and Hemmerich seconded, that the motion be amended to read "within any twelve (12) month period" rather than "a calendar year". The amendment carried unanimously.

BUSINESS IN THE ARTS AWARDS: A committee meeting was scheduled to review and decide the Business in the Arts Award winners on Monday, January 20 at Gladstone's.

SUPPORT FOR ARTS EVENTS/PROJECTS/PROGRAMS: The criteria used to determine financial awards in support of local art and cultural events, projects, and programs was reviewed.

Sarmo noted a need to address two difficulties, having to finalize payments to organizations by the end of the City's fiscal year for events which will not take place until spring and cancellation of two events that were awarded funding in 1996. The possibility of having more than one grant cycle during the year was mentioned but generally rejected. Sanders suggested some type of ranking system or prior approval from the City Council to grant funding at the end of the year to organizations who had applied for grants but not received full funding, if other events are canceled and additional money then becomes available. Whaley moved, and Sanders seconded, that the Commission's criteria be amended to include the statement that events, projects, and programs must take place by December 31 of each year. The motion carried unanimously. Sanders moved, and Rogers seconded, that if there are any regranting monies not allocated by the end of the year, the Commission shall review the original grant applications for further funding. The motion carried unanimously. The consensus of the Commission was to only accept one application for funding per organization.

A letter was read from the Museum of Western Colorado noting cancellation of the April, 1997 Cowboy Poetry Gathering, for which the Commission approved \$1,500 in funding. The Museum asked if their contract with the Commission could be amended to transfer the \$1,500 award to the 1997 Grand River Indian Artists Gathering instead. It was noted that the Commission's policy is not to allow organizations to radically change the projects or events for which they receive funding approval. Whaley moved, and Ivanov seconded, that permission to amend the Museum's contract be denied. The motion carried unanimously.

Utilizing the now unallocated \$1,500 for performing arts programs for children was discussed, with the idea of purchasing tickets for the economically disadvantaged. Sanders moved, and Ivanov seconded, that the Commission contribute \$750 to help pay for children unable to afford admission to see Performing Arts Conservatory's "Alex in Numberland" which is touring area elementary schools in January, and that the Commission contribute \$750 to purchase tickets for the Doo Zoo's production of Missoula Children's Theatre play at the end of January, to be distributed through Partners, Girl Scouts, and Boy Scouts. The motion carried, five in favor and Phil Rogers abstaining.

CULTURAL ARTS COORDINATOR'S REPORT: The Coordinator's monthly report was distributed and reviewed. Sarmo asked permission to purchase the 1997-1998 edition of the *Colorado Grants Guide*, at a cost of \$98, to replace the 1995-1996 edition which the Commission bought and placed at the Mesa County Public Library. The consensus was to purchase the guide. Discussion of 1996 and 1997 projects was postponed until the January meeting.

As there was no further business to come before the board, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Cowan Sarmo Cultural Arts Coordinator