

Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture
Minutes
Wednesday, March 21, 2001

Commissioners Present: LeRoy Donegan Joan Meyers
Seth Brown Janet Prell
Peter Ivanov

Commissioners Absent: Pamela Blythe, Priscilla Mangnall, Bill Reidy, and Bill Whaley

Others Present: Joe Stevens (Parks & Recreation Director), Shawn Cooper (Parks Planner), Ted Ciavonne (Ciavonne & Associates), Omar Campos (Two Rivers food, beverage, and events supervisor).

The regular meeting of the Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture was held on the above date. Chair LeRoy Donegan called the meeting to order at 4:00pm and a motion was made by Brown, seconded by Prell, to approve the minutes of the previous meetings on February 27, 2001 and February 28, 2001 as written. The motion carried unanimously.

1% FOR THE ARTS PROJECTS--TWO RIVERS CONVENTION CENTER: The Commission discussed possible art purchases using the approximately \$36,000 - \$38,000 allocated for the 1% for the Arts program for renovation of Two Rivers. Ted Ciavonne showed conceptual drawings of the outdoor plaza and landscaping design and computer illustrations of the idea of including a row of three monumental decorative features from the center of the new roundabout at Second and Colorado Avenue up to the building. Several designs for these features were possible, either replicating the front façade (with a water fountain in the roundabout) or replicating the rock formations of the local geography or utilizing a unique design by a local artist. Ciavonne noted that this concept would cost considerably more than the 1% amount. Additional funding would need to be allocated, and/or obtained from other sources such as the Hilton Gardens Hotel adjacent to the plaza. The Commission does not want to do fund raising.

The Commission discussed using the 1% money for possible interior decorative features at the entrance to the break out rooms, in the meeting rooms themselves, or on the wall opposite the JUCO display. Other outdoor sculpture ideas were considered as well. The Coordinator distributed numerous pictures and brochures showing indoor and outdoor public art throughout the country, notably in Albuquerque and Phoenix. Brown noted that rotating art exhibits could be done inside like the exhibits being planned for City Hall. Ciavonne suggested the Commission could do a "Call for Entries" to solicit designs from artists for the feature in the roundabout and/or plaza. This idea was positively received.

The consensus of the Commission was to explore ways to accomplish the concept presented by Ciavonne of a row of monumental features. A motion was made by Brown, seconded by Ivanov that the 1% for the Arts funds be used for outdoor artwork in

development of the roundabout and plaza. The motion carried unanimously. Ciavonne will contact the firm of Di Giacomo, Inc. in Azusa, California, which does the type of faux rock forms shown in one drawing and obtain cost estimates.

WESTLAKE PARK and CANYON VIEW PARK: Accomplishing the 1% for the Arts projects connected with completion of Westlake Park and additional improvements to Canyon View Park were also discussed, in light of the fact that both are phased projects and the 1% amount of funding has been and will continue to accumulate over time. The Coordinator explained that she assumed the original construction of Canyon View was not subject to the 1% program since park construction was started at the same time the 1% resolution was adopted and, therefore, was a “grandfathered” project. However, current and future Canyon View Park improvements could total \$4 million and Westlake is yet to be completed also. Whether or not traditional artwork could be compatible with Westlake and not simply become a vandalism attraction was addressed. The Coordinator explained that the 1% resolution says artwork should be site specific (installed at the site), but the Commission could ask the City Council to use the funds towards another art project or location. She noted that the sculpture being planned for the new traffic building will actually be placed in front of the print shop because that’s a much more visible location. The Coordinator also noted that the resolution provides for establishment of a Public Art Fund into which the 1% allocations should to be placed and spent, but to date all 1% expenditures had come out of the construction budget for the project they were connected with, since that was the simplest procedure. Joe Stevens suggested that with projects such as new parks, which are often done in phases over several years, that the Public Art Fund could be instituted and the 1% funds accumulated over time, then spent altogether rather than spent in small amounts.

COMMUNITY CULTURAL CALENDAR SPONSORSHIP: A request was presented from KAFM Grand Valley Public Radio for continued Commission sponsorship of the entertainment and cultural calendar which is read on air six times daily. The consensus of the Commission was that KAFM is a strong community partner in the promotion of local non-profit arts organizations and cultural events, and the calendar readings also provide an excellent way to promote the Commission. A motion was made by Prell, seconded by Brown, to renew underwriting support of \$1,000 for 2001 to KAFM Grand Valley Public Radio for the Community Entertainment Calendar. The motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE: The Coordinator read a letter from the Commission supporting the relocation of the Western Colorado Center for the Arts to Las Colonias Park. The letter noted that when the Commission adopted the *Grand Junction Strategic Cultural Plan* in 1991, that plan included the recommendation of “setting aside a large, publicly owned tract of land for a future cultural complex which could accommodate construction of numerous buildings for a museum, an art center, a performing arts center (with both large and small theater spaces), and an outdoor amphitheater, which could be developed in phases, as

funding became available.” A motion was made by Prell, seconded by Meyers, that Chairman Donegan sign the letter for the Commission. The motion carried unanimously.

Thank you letters for Commission funding were read from the Mesa County Community Concert Association, the Western Colorado Watercolor Society, the Friends of Mesa County Public Library District, and the Senior Theater.

OLD BUSINESS: In reference to reports of financial problems involving one of the Commission’s grant recipients, Janet Prell reported that there had been an investigation but no charges were filed by either the Sheriff’s Department or the Police Department against board members of the Friends for Native American Communities, Inc. who are organizing the first Rocky Mountain Indian Festival in May. The Coordinator noted a need to be cautious with City’s funds and explained that every grant recipient signs a contract with the Commission/City which provides for numerous assurances. She suggested not releasing the grant money until the festival actually happens, and also requesting an accounting of how the money is actually spent, to which the Commission concurred. She will discuss this with the grantee.

REPORTS: The Coordinator’s Report for March was distributed and reviewed. The Coordinator reported that approval of the artwork hanging system and security system is under consideration by City Administration at the moment and that she had hosted a March 15 meeting of local arts and cultural organizations to discuss a Scientific and Cultural Facilities Tax District in Mesa County. As there was no further business to come before the Commission, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 6:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Cowan Sarmo
Cultural Arts Coordinator