

Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture
Minutes
May 22, 2002

Commissioners Present: Doug Clary Joan Meyers (arrived at 4:30pm)
Jack Delmore Janet Prell (arrived at 4:45pm)
Karen Kiefer Bill Whaley
Priscilla Mangnall

Commissioners Absent: Pamela Blythe, LeRoy Donegan
Others Present: Dan Wilson (City Attorney)

The regular meeting of the Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture was held on the above date. Chair Bill Whaley called the meeting to order at 4:00pm. A motion was made by Doug Clary, seconded by Priscilla Mangnall, to approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on April 24, 2002 as written. The motion carried unanimously.

CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS POLICIES: City Attorney Dan Wilson appeared before the Commission to distribute and discuss the City Council's new policy concerning ethical standards and conflicts of interest for members of City appointed boards and commissions. Wilson noted that the Arts Commission is defined as a "Level 2" board because it is an advisory body, making recommendations to Council for many major expenditures, as opposed to "Level 1" boards which are final decision-making bodies subject to the same legislated ethical standards as City Council members. Specifically: "Level 2 boards and members...must: disclose the conflict or appearance of impropriety as soon as possible; absent oneself from participation or influence regarding the matter." The City Clerk is to maintain a copy of any such disclosures which is available to the public. Wilson recommended that the best way to comply with this policy would be to annually note in the minutes any disclosures of possible conflicts of interest for any Commission members, which generally the Commission already does during the grant-making process every February.

"THE SONG OF TWO RIVERS": The Commission discussed with the City Attorney their concerns about the newly installed sculpture/water feature at Two Rivers Convention Center. The Coordinator reported that a letter had been sent to Ivan Kosta from Joe Stevens outlining a "punch list" of items still to be completed, including elimination of the rust problems, and that Kosta had send a letter in reply stating that the City should rectify all problems and unfinished items. To date final payment has not been made and the assumption is that all additional work will be funded out of Kosta's final payment. The Coordinator reported that she and the Parks Planner have contacted sculptor Harlan Mosher, All Metals Welding, Lafferty Welding, and Welfelt Welding in Delta to get estimates for eliminating the rusting.

CORRESPONDENCE: Thank you letters for financial support were read from the Western Colorado Botanical Society, New Emerson Elementary School, the Mesa County Public Library Foundation, and Pomona Elementary School, and for participation in the School-to-Career Fair from Mesa County School District 51's School-to-Career Partnership.

REPORTS: The Coordinator distributed her report for May and a list of the committee appointments finalized at the last meeting. The Coordinator reported that she has not received any offers of cover artwork for the new *Sourcebook* director and asked if any

Commission members had art or photography they might donate for this purpose. Karen Kiefer offered a picture.

COLORADO ARTS CONSORTIUM: Consortium board member Kiefer asked for ideas from the Commission for free meeting space for the Consortium's June 22 meeting in Grand Junction and was told to check on the Episcopal Church Fellowship Room and Mesa State College.

AVALON THEATER: Mangnall relayed a request from Avalon Theater manager Alice Rupp for fundraising ideas from and/or a donation from the Commission to help restore and protect the mural on the second floor of the Avalon Theater, thought to be by local artist Alfred Nestler. The advisability of covering it with Plexiglas was discussed, and the idea of using Commission funds designated to purchase artwork to restore the mural. No final decision was made. A suggestion was made that the Commission keep a list of potential funding sources for anyone looking for donations or grants, and the Coordinator noted that such a list already exists, *The Colorado Grants Guide*, which lists all funding sources throughout Colorado, including Grand Junction, and which the Commission purchased and donated to the public library. She noted that the Commission also has the *Mesa County Resource Guide* listing additional local funding sources.

CITY HALL ART EXHIBIT: The Coordinator reported that Berta Gardner's sculpture display has been installed in City Hall. She asked the Commission's opinion of expanding the planned art exhibit by City employees in November-December to include the entire first floor of the building, not just the Community Art Wall, since response to the exhibit has been substantial. The consensus of the Commission was to display City employee artwork in all available spaces. Commissioner Prell noted that Mesa County will be starting a new rotating art display and that she and Kiefer will be assisting in getting this installed. The Coordinator noted that the display will be in the renovated courthouse and that all the City's procedures, guidelines, artists' names, forms, and information about the City Hall art hanging system have been given to the County.

BUSINESS IN THE ARTS AWARDS: The Business in the Arts Committee recommended that the Commission pursue having the annual Business in the Arts Awards presented at the Chamber of Commerce banquet. The consensus of the Commission was to work on this idea. Kiefer and Mangnall volunteered to contact several Chamber board members about this. If it is an option, Mangnall and the Coordinator will attend a Chamber board meeting with a formal request.

ROUNDBOUT ARTWORK: Doug Clary noted that a new Safeway store is being built beside the Horizon Drive roundabout and suggested that the Commission approach Safeway about purchasing a piece of sculpture to be placed in the roundabout. It was noted that sculpture for this location was extensively looked into already but proved to be cost prohibitive at the time.

SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL FACILITIES DISTRICT: The possibility of establishing a Mesa County Scientific and Cultural Facilities District like the Denver metro area and as allowed by state statute was discussed. The Coordinator explained that such a district would have to be countywide, approved by popular vote, involve a 1/10 of 1% sales tax increase, and could raise approximately \$1.2 million for cultural and scientific 501(C)(3) organizations in the county. The Coordinator noted that many decisions about how to allocate this money would need to be made prior to putting the issue on the ballot, including what formula to use to divide up the funds and whether or not the Commission might be the agency that determines how to spend the probably 5-10% of discretionary grant funding. It was decided to discuss how involved the Commission would like to be at the next meeting.

The Coordinator noted that she will be out of the office at the national Americans for the Arts Public Art Conference June 5-8 and on vacation June 9-16. As there was no further business to come before the Commission, the chair declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Cowan Sarmo
Cultural Arts Coordinator