

Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture
Minutes
June 26, 2002

Commissioners Present: Pamela Blythe Karen Kiefer
Doug Clary Joan Meyers
LeRoy Donegan Bill Whaley

Commissioners Absent: Jack Delmore, Priscilla Mangnall, Janet Prell
Others Present: Shawn Cooper (GJ Parks Planner)

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 LeRoy Donegan, to approve the minutes of the Commission's May 22, 2002 meeting as written. The motion carried unanimously.

1% FOR THE ARTS PROJECTS - CANYON VIEW PARK: Parks Planner Shawn Cooper showed the Commission three different conceptual designs for the next phase of construction at Canyon View Park. Cooper explained that the construction budget will be \$3.5 - \$5 million dollars (1% for art = \$35,000 - \$50,000), however, the Parks Department currently has only \$1 million to spend. This phase will include 12 tennis courts, football fields, a water spray playground with adjacent picnic shelter, a finished plaza and seating for the baseball field, parking for 350 vehicles, and possibly a dog park. Various possible locations for public art were discussed. Cooper stated that the conceptual design will probably be ready for public comment in about two months, and the Commission decided to discuss art possibilities further in July and August.

PARK RESTROOMS: Cooper discussed future restroom replacement projects at local parks, to be done at a rate of one each year over the next ten years. The proposed model for the new Riverside Park restroom was displayed, Cooper noting that the restrooms will be a fairly standard design throughout the parks, similar to the restrooms at Canyon View and Westlake Park. The problem of vandalism was discussed at length, which is a major concern, especially at Westlake. Art possibilities mentioned included glazed, porcelain, or concrete tile artwork, a mural, or an artfully designed bench. The Commission decided to table a decision until the July meeting.

SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL FACILITIES DISTRICT: The Commission's future involvement in the possible creation of a Mesa County cultural funding district, as well as in the district itself, if established, was discussed. Recognizing that campaigning for a ballot initiative is not an option for a City commission, the consensus of the board is to make it clear to local arts and cultural organizations that the Commission has done all the research and facilitating that is legally appropriate, and it is up to area non-profits to conduct the campaign, should this come to fruition. The chairman offered to send a letter to this effect to the next bi-monthly meeting of major arts organizations scheduled for July 9. It was noted that exactly how to allocate the funding generated by such a district is still under discussion by the groups involved, and that most of the funding would probably be disbursed on a formula basis, with only 5-10% to be allocated in a discretionary basis. The consensus of the Commission, if a countywide district is approved, is that the Commission would be the logical entity to determine allocation of any discretionary

funds, because the Commission already has a grant program and procedures in place and because appointment to the Commission is not specifically limited to City residents but can include the county as well.

CORRESPONDENCE: A thank-you letter was read from Greg Finch and the Downtown Association for the Commission's donation to the Art & Jazz Festival. A letter was read from Ann Sanders, Mesa State College Director of Dance, noting that the High School Summer Dance Workshop originally scheduled for June, and funded in part by the Commission, has been postponed until fall or the Christmas break.

REPORTS: The Cultural Arts Coordinator distributed four reports as follows: The Coordinator's Monthly Report for July; the Second Quarter Financial Report of expenditures to date; a list of all artwork owned by the City (15 sculptures and paintings, not including Art on the Corner pieces); and a list of upcoming cultural events sponsored in part by the Commission (so members can attend and monitor for future grant decisions.) The Coordinator also distributed a stack of photographs, brochures, newsletters, and magazines from public art programs in cities and states around the country which she obtained recently at the Americans for the Arts Public Art Conference in Nashville, Tennessee. She reported speaking to several public art administrators and consultants about the Commission's disappointment in the finished sculpture/water feature at Two Rivers Convention Center, saying that from what she learned, the Commission's selection, oversight, and contractual procedures were quite adequate, and sometimes little can be done to prevent problems except selecting artists with extensive experience in the type of artwork proposed and extensive references. The Coordinator suggested the Commission consider doing a brochure of City owned artwork, which could be budgeted for next year. Clary noted that the cost of printing 1000 full-color brochures would be about \$750, or about \$850 for 2000, if done by a company he deals with in Georgia. This would not include the cost of having photographs taken of each piece, which hopefully will be done by a new Recreation Department intern.

The Coordinator reported that a full-color cover for the *Sourcebook* directory of local artists would cost about \$300 more to print than the traditional single color, and the consensus of the Commission was to upgrade the new edition of the book to a full-color cover.

The Coordinator reported that Priscilla Mangnall had discussed the possibility of presenting the annual Business in the Arts Awards at the Chamber of Commerce banquet with Chamber board member Tillie Bishop, who recommended bringing this idea to the Chamber board. The Coordinator will contact the Chamber to be placed on the board's agenda.

Karen Kiefer reported that the Homebuilders Association of Northwest Colorado's Parade of Homes kick-off party/art sale was very successful. Kiefer also reported that the June 22 meeting of the Colorado Arts Consortium in Grand Junction, which she and Joan Meyers attended, was also successful and informative.

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