

Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture  
Minutes  
July, 24, 2002

Commissioners Present:    Doug Clary                      Karen Kiefer  
   Jack Delmore                      Priscilla Mangnall  
   LeRoy Donegan                      Bill Whaley

Commissioners Absent:    Pamela Blythe, Joan Meyers, and Janet Prell

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 Karen Kiefer, to approve the minutes of the Commission's meeting of June 26, 2002 as written. The motion carried unanimously.

**LAS COLONIAS PARK DEVELOPMENT:** The Coordinator reported a request from City Council, through Parks Director Joe Stevens, that the Arts Commission facilitate discussions among area arts organizations about what cultural groups and activities should be included in the "cultural facility" shown in the master plan for Los Colonias Park. Stevens suggested that the Commission make a recommendation, following discussions with local organizations, and work with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. The Coordinator explained that the Art Center has been already working extensively with the Parks Board about building a new art center in the park, however the City Council decided to delete the proposed Art Center facility from a grant application to Greater Outdoors Colorado because it did not enhance the application.

The Coordinator reported that the availability of City land was discussed at the August 13 meeting of major arts and cultural organizations, and Sarmo reported that the Art Center is the only cultural organization actively seeking to build a new facility in the near future. From discussions at the monthly meeting of arts groups and other conversations, Sarmo noted the following information about facility issues:

- The Mesa County Public Library District informally discussed several relocation possibilities when considering a new facility, but decided against Las Colonias because of the 50-year flood plain.
- The Museum of Western Colorado recently completed a several million dollar remodeling of the C. D. Smith Building (donated to the museum by the City) into a new history museum, and has no desire to relocate. Their facility issues at present include more storage space, which will probably be built at Dinosaur Journey in Fruita, and additional parking space.
- The Grand Junction Musical Arts Association is considering working with the Grand Junction High School to improve the high school auditorium, because the cost to build a brand new 1500-2000 seat auditorium/concert hall is approximately \$20 million. The symphony would be a strong contributor toward a future performing arts center, but has no desire to build and maintain such a facility themselves.
- The Western Colorado Botanical Gardens has no desire to move, having invested several million dollars and many years of hard work in their current area (leased to them by the City).
- The Performing Arts Conservatory has just moved out of the Art Center and into White Hall. They are doing some remodeling and considering the possibility of purchasing

the building. They would be interested in a future performing arts facility, depending on what happens with White Hall, but, like the symphony they don't have the funding base to build and operate a major facility themselves.

- KAFM Radio Station just purchased and moved into a building and has no desire to relocate.
- The Doo Zoo Children's Museum moved into a new building last year and the assumption is they are established where they are.
- Mesa State College is currently completing an extensive remodel/addition to Walter Walker Fine Arts Center which includes upgrading Robinson Theatre and adding a new small theater and a new concert hall auditorium, so the college's theater needs are met for the foreseeable future.

A draft memo from the Arts Commission to the Parks and Recreation Board and the City Council was discussed, which included the following recommendations about cultural facilities in the park:

- Las Colonias Park is an excellent and appropriate location for the Art Center, and the Parks Board and City Council should continue to work closely with the Western Colorado Center for the Arts to include a new building for the Art Center in the park. Having the Art Center located near downtown and near the Botanic Gardens would enhance all these entities, improve the entire neighborhood, and expand on the idea of a central location for cultural facilities. The Art Center is one of the community's premier cultural institutions, featured often when promoting Grand Junction to tourists, potential businesses, and local citizens. The City should support this non-profit organization with land and other infrastructure in Las Colonias because having the Art Center in the community and in the park contributes immeasurably to the whole area.
- A performing arts facility (with both large and small theater spaces) should be built at some time in the future adjacent to the Art Center, as a collaborative funding effort between the City, area cultural organizations, and other funding sources, when the Avalon Theatre has reached capacity and a larger auditorium is necessary and feasible. In the interim the land necessary for this should be retained as open space within the park.

The problem of locating cultural facilities in a flood plain was brought up, as well as the problem of locating performance facilities near loud railroad tracks. After further discussion, it was decided to approve the memo, with the following additions:

- An artists/art-related business incubator facility should also be built at some time in the future adjacent to the Art Center, and in the interim the land necessary for this should be retained as open space within the park,
- An outdoor amphitheater should also be included within the park.
- The Commission wants to make it clear that a performing art center is a very different facility than the regional event center proposed by the Chamber of Commerce, in size, building configuration, optimum uses, audience size, acoustic and technical requirements, etc.

A motion was made by Kiefer, seconded by Delmore, to approve the memo to the Parks Board and City Council as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMISSION BUDGET: The 2003 budget submitted by the Commission last year and approved by City Council was reviewed. The cost of producing a brochure of City-owned artwork was discussed, but because there are no major changes in projects or programs for

next year, a motion was made by Kiefer, seconded by Clary, to approve the 2003 budget as already adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** A thank you letter from the Art Center for a Commission grant was noted.

**ONE PERCENT FOR THE ARTS:** The Coordinator reported that the final payment pursuant to the City's contract with Ivan Kosta for "The Song of Two Rivers" has been made. The payment was \$4,000 less than originally agreed upon, because this is the amount necessary for the City to complete the final "punch list" of noncompliant items, including elimination of the rust on the sculpture. A motion was made by Mangnall, seconded by Delmore, not to make any additional payments to Kosta for the sculpture. The motion carried unanimously. The total 1% for the Arts budget for the project is \$38,673, and \$36,000 has been spent on the Kosta sculpture. Expenditure of the remaining \$2673, or more if the punch list items cost less than estimated, was discussed, and a motion was made by Kiefer, seconded by Delmore, to use the remaining funds to purchase artwork for the interior of Two Rivers Convention Center. The motion carried unanimously. Up-coming 1% art purchases for Canyon View, Westlake, and Riverside Parks were tabled until the next meeting.

**REPORTS:** Priscilla Mangnall reported that she will oversee production of next year's Arts & Jazz Festival and Cheryl Hogan of Original Accents will be in charge of the art booths and vendors. Mangnall also suggested that the Commission rethink the idea of a life-sized deer sculpture in the roundabout at 12<sup>th</sup> and Horizon Drive because of the deer population in that area of town. Clary reiterated his suggestion that Safeway be approached to fund such a sculpture.

Clary asked for information about KAFM Community Radio's request that the Commission allow the Daily Sentinel to partner with them in sponsoring the radio's Entertainment Calendar readings. Clary wanted to know if the additional money from the newspaper would go into the station's general fund or be used only for the calendar, but neither Mangnall nor Whaley, who are on the KAFM board, knew the specific plans. The Coordinator noted that she had received a general consensus of approval from Commission members through an informal e-mail poll and had conveyed this to Julia Hall at KAFM.

**COORDINATOR'S REPORT:** The Coordinator's Report for July was distributed and reviewed. The Coordinator also reported that at the August 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of arts organizations, any plans to pursue a Scientific and Cultural Facilities Funding District have been put on hold for the next few months, until new executive directors are hired for the Art Center and the Museum of Western Colorado. The Coordinator will be in Denver August 7-8 serving on a grant review panel for the Colorado Council on the Arts.

**BUSINESS IN THE ARTS AWARDS COMMITTEE:** The Coordinator will meet with the Chamber of Commerce Executive Board August 5 to discuss increased Chamber involvement in the awards and presentation at the Chamber's annual banquet. Mangnall and Kiefer volunteered to attend the meeting as well.

**CITY HALL ART COMMITTEE:** The art exhibits at City Hall will be taken down and new artwork installed July 31 at 10am, and Donegan, Delmore, and Kiefer volunteered to assist.

**SLIDE PRESENTATION:** The Commission's slide presentation about local arts activities and organizations will be given for the LDS Church August 7 at 7pm by Karen Kiefer, and Donegan volunteered to run the slide projector. The presentation will be given by the

Coordinator to the Lions Club August 20 at noon, and Mangnall volunteered to run the projector.

As there was no further business to come before the Commission, the chairman declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Cowan Sarmo  
Cultural Arts Coordinator