

Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture  
Minutes  
January 22, 2003

Commissioners Present: Pamela Blythe Priscilla Mangnall  
Doug Clary Joan Meyers  
LeRoy Donegan Janet Prell  
Karen Kiefer

Commissioners Absent: Jack Delmore and Bill Whaley

The regular meeting of the Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture was held on the above date. Vice-chair Pamela Blythe called the meeting to order at 4:00pm. A motion was made by Karen Kiefer, seconded by Joan Meyers, to approve the minutes of the Commission's meeting on November 20, 2002 as written. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC ART: Blythe presented design drawings for a proposed PDP development by Primary Care Partners and Hospice & Palliative Care of Western Colorado who are working together to construct a new residential and care facility on 13 acres adjacent to The Atrium on 12<sup>th</sup> Street. The City's Community Development Department has requested that the complex include public amenities; therefore, Blythe Design + Co. are including extensive walking trails, public spaces, benches, and designated places for a rotating outdoor sculpture exhibit much like Art on the Corner in the design. Blythe explained that the developers would like help from the Commission to organize this exhibit, suggesting that the Commission might establish a sub-committee to work on the project. The Commissioners discussed various ideas related to mounting temporary sculpture exhibits, and the Coordinator noted that while the Commission could be a resource and help in an on-going advisory capacity, that Commission members probably did not want to be responsible for actually installing or maintaining the sculpture exhibit.

The Coordinator read a draft letter from the Commission to Community Development endorsing the inclusion of public artwork in the project, noting that: "This idea is an excellent realization of exactly the type of public art projects recommended in the recently adopted update of the *Grand Junction Strategic Cultural Plan* . . . the Commission would like to encourage major developers in Grand Junction to 'include art as a value-added element to major building and construction projects.' " A motion was made by Doug Clary, seconded by Janet Prell, to approve the letter of support for the proposed residential development by Hospice and Palliative Care of Western Colorado and Primary Care Partners. The motion carried unanimously.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2003: Priscilla Mangnall nominated Pamela Blythe as chair of the Commission, and LeRoy Donegan nominated Doug Clary as Vice-chair. A motion was made by Karen Kiefer, seconded by Joan Meyers, to accept the nominations and elect Pamela Blythe as chair and Doug Clary as vice-chair by acclamation. The motion carried unanimously. The officers will assume their duties at the next meeting.

A list of current Commission committees was distributed and discussed. The consensus of the Commission was to discontinue the annual November Arts Expo and, therefore, the Expo committee. It was felt that the various festivals, particularly the Arts & Jazz Festival, served the same function – to promote a broad array of local arts and cultural organizations and artists – and the Arts Expo is no longer needed. A new Artrain Committee was added to organize bringing the Artrain exhibition to Grand Junction in 2004. Commission members gave the new chair their preferences for committee assignments for the year.

CALENDAR AND CORRESPONDENCE: The Coordinator distributed a calendar of Commission meeting dates and project timelines for 2003.

Thank you letters were read from the Western Colorado Botanical Gardens and KAFM public radio station for Commission grants in 2002. A donation request was read from the Colorado Alliance for Arts Education; however, the Commission pays an annual membership fee to CAAE already.

REPORTS: The *State of the Arts* annual report from the Commission to the City Council, as required by the Commission's enabling resolution, was distributed and reviewed and two changes suggested. Blythe noted that local artists have been wonderfully generous with donations of their artwork for various fundraising events, most recently for Hospice & Palliative Care of Western Colorado. Mangnall noted that the Art Center's up-coming art auction is now mainly artwork donated by local artists, and Kiefer mentioned artwork displayed in the Homebuilders Association home tours. The need for more media coverage of area artists and their involvement in the community was discussed and Prell volunteered to follow-up on this suggestion. A motion was made by Donegan, seconded by Prell, to approve the annual report, pending possible minor revisions. The motion carried unanimously.

The Coordinator's Report for December and the Fourth Quarter Financial Report showing all Commission expenditures for 2002 were also distributed and reviewed. The Coordinator reported that Connie Robbins-Brady, Art Heritage Coordinator for Mesa County Valley School District #51, has a scheduling conflict during the Commission's February 25 grant presentation meeting and suggested that since there is no one else to attend the meeting and answer questions that Brady be allowed to make her presentation as the first item of business at the Commission's February 26 meeting. The Commission concurred. The Coordinator reported that Lorna Naegele, Executive Director of the Western Colorado Botanical Gardens, has a scheduling conflict with the Commission's January 29 pre-application screening meeting but that she is considering applying for a grant to do an outdoor summer music series for teens. The Coordinator asked if Commission members felt this was a worthwhile idea for a grant project and the Commission confirmed that it was.

The Commission's presentation to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board February 20 about the cultural complex at Los Colonias Park and the artwork and artful architectural features at Canyon View Park was discussed. [Note: Presentation subsequently rescheduled for April 17.]

COMMISSION WEBSITE: Clary reported that he is progressing on development of a new website for the Commission and that the domain name gjarts.org has been registered. The site should be operational by the end of February. The Coordinator will supply additional material to Clary and discuss a link to the City's site with the Information Services Department. Clary also reported that he is giving a presentation at Grand Mesa Middle School as a result of his being listed in *The Sourcebook* directory.

CITY HALL ART EXHIBIT COMMITTEE: Donegan reported that a new exhibit of paintings and sculpture has been installed at City Hall for January-February-March.

CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION STRATEGIC PLAN 2002-2012: The recently adopted strategic plan was discussed, especially the elements in it relating to arts and cultural—maintaining a sense of community identity, maintaining neighborhood bonds, preserving the quality of life, beautifying City entrances, Grand Junction's recognition as a cultural center, and the City's role in facilitating arts and culture. Commissioners see great potential for using the arts, culture, and public art to promote a unique identity, beautify City gateways, create neighborhood projects, and engage youth in the community.

As there was no further business to conduct, the chair declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Cowan Sarmo  
Cultural Arts Coordinator