

Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture
Minutes
March 26, 2003

Commissioners Present: Pamela Blythe Karen Kiefer
Doug Clary Priscilla Mangnall
Jack Delmore Joan Meyers
LeRoy Donegan Janet Prell (arrived at 4:40pm)

Commissioners Absent: Bill Whaley

The regular meeting of the Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture was held on the above date. Chair Pamela Blythe 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 meetings on February 25, 2003 and February 26, 2003 as written. The motion carried unanimously.

ONE PERCENT FOR THE ARTS PROJECTS: The Coordinator presented a draft "Call for Entries" for tile or concrete artwork in conjunction with the new restrooms at Riverside Park and Columbine Park. Commissioners made several suggestions about the wording, and recommended sending the request for proposals to local tile artists, tile companies, concrete companies, architects, landscape architects, and Linda Villa (who's active in the Riverside community). The project would also be advertised in the newspaper. The artwork can be created either as a coordinated neighborhood project or designed by an artist. The consensus of the Commission was to limit the "Call for Entries" to Mesa County because of the relatively small budget for both projects (\$820 each).

Chair Pamela Blythe reported on a new type of brightly colored glass block called solar cap which could be used in the restrooms instead of the regular glass block currently in the design. Blythe recommended encouraging the Parks Department to consider this option and the Coordinator will bring this to the Parks Planner's attention.

The Commission discussed various options for 1% art for Canyon View Park and the consensus was to commission an artistic entry feature for the 24½ Road entrance. The total cost of construction at the park in 2003 is estimated to be \$1.7 million, and a motion was made by Kiefer, seconded by Delmore, to do a "Call for Entries" for a entrance feature to be installed in 2003, with a total project budget of \$27,000, which includes \$17,000 in 1% for the Arts monies and \$10,000 from the Commission's own budget. The motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS: The Commission briefly discussed their up-coming presentation to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board on April 17 (postponed several times since last October). Blythe and Sarmo will work together on the materials and photographs to show.

REPORTS: The Coordinator's monthly reports for February and March were distributed and reviewed as well as the Commission's financial report of expenditures for the first quarter of 2003. The Coordinator reported that art restoration experts John Hensley and Carolyn Quinn Hensley had examined the mural on March 20 and tested numerous cleaning agents on various parts. John's professional assessment was:

- Proper removal of all the various scuffs, marks, dirt, etc. will take several different, specific, and strong chemical agents and cleaning materials for the different kinds of grime and this is not a do-it-yourself project which the Commission or volunteers can successfully do;

- The paint needs to be retouched in a few spots;
- Chemicals and cleaning products are very expensive, in part because some are hazardous materials and shipping and handling can be even more expensive than the products themselves;
- The best protection from future damage would be to varnish the painting, however, this makes the painting (and any residue on it) permanent so it should not be done without first completely cleaning and retouching the mural;
- Proper cleaning, retouching, and varnishing by the Hensleys could take several weeks and cost approximately \$3,000 - \$4,000, much of that cost for the necessary materials;
- If the City can't afford to do a complete restoration, the mural should be left alone and not cleaned at all, other than dusting with a very soft brush;
- If protection is the main objective, hanging a curtain over the entire mural would be adequate protection from further damage, especially since only about a third of the painting is visible anyway because of the extensive concession stand directly in front of it;
- The problem of having concession equipment up against the painting should be addressed because of the possibility of damage from heat or residue from the back of the large Pepsi machine and the risk of food being splashed onto the painting.

The Commission discussed various problems at the Avalon Theater, including the mural and concession stand, a light screening curtain hung in the wrong place, and the need for a professional theater manager for the facility rather than untrained staff. An improvement in the attitude and helpfulness of the Avalon maintenance supervisor was noted. Clary reported that Harold Stalf, Executive Director of the Downtown Development Authority, is encouraging returning the Avalon to a full-time movie theater for independent and foreign films. Blythe and others suggested that another reason to protect the mural is because the Avalon received funding from the Colorado Historical Society and is on the state registry of historical buildings, and the historical society requires that the building be properly maintained. A motion was made by Donegan, seconded by Mangnall, to send a letter to Two Rivers/Avalon General Manager Mike Brophy outlining John Hensley's recommendations and asking that the large Pepsi machine be moved, the paint protected from further damage by food or equipment, and money be budgeted for professional cleaning, restoration, and protection. The motion carried unanimously.

Mangnall reported that she has resigned as coordinator of the Art & Jazz Festival. Joan Meyers reported that she met with Kelley Raymond, Education Coordinator for the Art Center, about the Artrain visit in 2004. They went over organizing details and what committees will be needed. It was noted that former Commission member Seth Brown might head the site committee and Connie Robbins-Brady with the school district might head the volunteer committee. Raymond offered to coordinate the local artists' demonstrations normally done in one train car during the exhibit and she will also contact Artrain staff about the specific date it will be in Grand Junction. The 2004 exhibit will be contemporary Native American artists and various events which could be done in conjunction with the art exhibit, such as an Art Center or Museum of Western Colorado exhibit and Native American dancing, were discussed.

The Coordinator reported that the art exhibit at City Hall will be removed March 31 at 10am (Clary and Donegan volunteered to help) and a new exhibit installed April 1 at 10am (Kiefer volunteered to help and Meyers will ask her husband also.) A possible reception for JABOA's exhibit the first week of July was briefly discussed but a decision tabled until the next meeting.

Clary reported that the Commission's new website address can and should be publicized, and the Coordinator will include it on printed materials.

Outgoing Commission member LeRoy Donegan was thanked for his six years of dedicated service and will remain on the City Hall Art Exhibit Committee. As there was no further business to come before the board, the chair declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Cowan Sarmo
Cultural Arts Coordinator