Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture Minutes April 23, 2003

Commissioners Present: Pamela Blythe Joan Meyers (arrived at 4:15pm)

Lee Borden Janet Prell

Jack Delmore Bill Whaley

Karen Kiefer

Commissioners Absent: Doug Clary, Priscilla Mangnall

Guests Present: Tim Sarmo and Lois Becker (Mesa County Public Library District

Foundation), Vinje Lawson (artist), and Karina Stevens (artist).

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 4:05pm. A motion was made by Bill Whaley, seconded by Karen Kiefer, to approve the minutes of the Commission's meeting of March 26, 2003 as written. The motion carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENTS: Tim Sarmo, Mesa County Public Library District campaign committee board member, and Lois Becker, Executive Director of the Mesa County Public Library District Foundation, briefed the Commission on the need to build a new library and the various issues surrounding the campaign. To illustrate the library's space needs, Sarmo displayed all versions of a single book which are now expected to be available through library loan, including the hardcover edition, large print edition, paperback edition, audio tape, CD, and the movie video. He explained that \$3.2 million has initially been raised for land acquisition and the interim period during construction. The voters will be asked to approve a bond issue for the cost of constructing a new library in a mail-in ballot election this November. The Commission was asked to write a letter of endorsement in support of the new library and the consensus was to do so, and to include not just the need for a new library but the need for a public building of which the community can be proud. Commissioners were invited to the campaign kickoff May 27 at 5:00pm at U. S. Bank.

1% FOR ARTS PROJECTS: The Coordinator noted that having received no written proposals for the tile art projects for the new Riverside and Columbine Park restrooms, she had contacted two local artists with experience in mosaic and ceramic tile artwork. Artist Vinje Lawson appeared before the Commission to discuss the possibility of involving Riverside neighborhood children in a series of Saturday workshops to do a tile making project for the Riverside Park restrooms. Lawson has done similar wall tile projects with Wingate Elementary School fifth grade students. Artist Karina Stevens appeared before the Commission to discuss designing and installing a tile mosaic above the drinking fountain on the Columbine Park restroom. Stevens has done numerous mosaic projects in Grand Junction. Commission members suggested a mosaic of columbine flowers for Columbine Park. A motion was made by Prell, seconded by Whaley, to hire Vinje Lawson to do a neighborhood tile art project for the new Riverside Park restrooms and to hire Karina Stevens to do mosaic tile artwork for the new Columbine Park restrooms, at a fee of \$840 to each artist, which includes design, materials, fabrication, and installation. The motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE: A thank you letter was read from the Grand Junction Symphony for a grant from the Commission, and a letter was noted from a symphony attendee lamenting inadequacies of the Grand Junction High School auditorium and restroom facilities and the need for a civic auditorium with extensive parking capabilities.

ART ON THE CORNER SCULPTURE CHANGE: Several Commissioners volunteered to be on the cleaning/painting crew for the May 31st deinstallation of Art on the Corner sculpture and painting of the pedestals, including Pamela Blythe (and daughter Nichole), Jack Delmore, Karen Kiefer, Joan Meyers (and husband Don), and Janet Prell. The Coordinator will also contact former Commission members who have helped in the past. About ten people are needed for the crew.

REPORTS: The Cultural Arts Coordinator's April report was distributed and discussed. The Coordinator noted plans for a new City logo. The report also showed that information about the City's 1% for the Arts program and Art on the Corner was sent to Brevard, N. C. and Sheridan, WY, at their request, and that the Coordinator met with the Carbondale Public Arts Committee twice to help them get a rotating exhibit like Art on the Corner started in Carbondale. The Coordinator suggested setting up a meeting soon with School District #51 administrators and the new superintendent to let them know about Artrain coming next spring, even though the Commission doesn't have a firm date yet. The Coordinator will contact the district.

Chair Pamela Blythe reported that she, Commissioners Clary and Meyers, and the Coordinator met with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to discuss possible arts and cultural activities or organizations which might be included in the proposed cultural center in the long range master plan for Las Colonias Park. Blythe also provided the Parks Board with a brief background on the 1% for Art program, noting that the Commission is interested in purchasing a monumental piece for the new east entrance of Canyon View Park, in conjunction with the second phase of construction. The Commission is contemplating a piece like or similar to a sculpture by Colorado artist Mark Leichliter. A picture was passed around of the Leichliter sculpture which consists of 18 feet tall pieces that can be purchased individually (approximately \$15,000 each) as funds become available. Parks Board members suggested that the new east entrance is not the main entrance and perhaps if a large sculpture is purchased it should be placed at the existing main entrance. Joe Stevens stated that the east entrance on 24 Road was originally scheduled to have an interactive water feature but due to funding constraints, the feature was not incorporated into the final design. One Parks Board member suggested that "interactive" artwork is particularly appropriate for a park. Blythe also showed Parks Board members numerous photographs of public art in parks and encouraged the board to allow the Commission to work more closely in the early stages of design and development of new parks projects. Parks Board members suggested having a liaison from the Commission attend Parks Board meetings periodically and the Coordinator will attend quarterly.

Blythe reported that City Council just approved the proposal from Hospice and Palliative Care of Western Colorado and Primary Care Partners for a new medical/residential complex.

Having an opening reception for the up-coming art exhibit going into City Hall July 1 was discussed, and a motion was made by Kiefer, seconded by Meyers, to host an opening reception July 2 from 5pm – 7:30pm for the JABOA and other artists whose works are being displayed. The motion carried unanimously.

Kiefer reported that thanks to the efforts of Colorado Representative Greg Rippy and U. S. Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell, the Colorado Council on the Arts was not eliminated from the state budget but received \$200,000 in funds for the next fiscal year.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Sarmo Cultural Arts Coordinator