

Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture
Minutes
September 24, 2003

Commissioners Present: Pamela Blythe Priscilla Mangnall
Lee Borden Joan Meyers
Jack Delmore Janet Prell
Karen Kiefer

Commissioners Absent: Doug Clary, Bill Whaley

Guests Present: Dennis Derrieux (Grand Junction Parks & Recreation Advisory Board)

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 Karen Kiefer, seconded by Jack Delmore, to approve the minutes of the Commission meeting of July 23, 2003 (August meeting canceled) as written. The motion carried unanimously. Dennis Derrieux was introduced as the liaison to the Commission from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

COMMISSION BUDGET: The Coordinator reported that due to decreased revenues, department budgets in 2004 and 2005 will remain basically flat, with no increase in overall expenditures.

PUBLIC ART PROJECTS: The Coordinator passed around photographs of public art in other cities on projects similar to what the City is currently working on: 1.) Fire stations (murals either painted or tiled, decorative metal doors, signage, wall reliefs in brick, bronze, fiberglass, or terra cotta); 2.) City entrances (monumental archways, bas relief, sculptures of local flora), and 3.) Laser cut ornamental steel fencing which could be used around the skate facility in Westlake Park.

The Coordinator reported having met with Fire Chief Rick Beaty and Operations Officer Jim Bright to show them various ideas for 1% for the Arts artwork for the new Redlands Fire Station. She said Beaty and Bright were most interested in art in conjunction with a sign for the station since that would be very visible but were not at all interested in the idea of a mural.

The Coordinator also met with All Metals Welding to get an estimate on laser cut fence panels, to see if this might be an option for the Westlake Park skate park. This type of fence, perhaps featuring skateboarder silhouettes, will cost \$100 - \$200 per linear foot depending on the complexity of the design. Several pictures and web site addresses were sent to Craig Roberts of Ciavonne & Associates who is working with the City's committee on preliminary designs for entrance features.

Dennis Derrieux encouraged the Commission to advocate for more inviting City entrances and better City of Grand Junction signs, especially on Highway 50 into downtown and on I-70, noting that this is of interest to the Parks and Recreation Board as well. Commission members concurred with Derrieux and noted that the *Grand Junction Strategic Cultural Plan* has a recommendation to include public art as an enhancement at City entrances. The chair noted that she and the Coordinator discussed this idea with the City Manager and with Tim Moore of Public Works a year ago, and have a carry-over balance of \$10,000 in their budget to help pay for gateway artwork. The Commission instructed the Coordinator to contact Bruce Hill and other

gateway committee members and let them know this funding for artwork is still available.

COLORADO ART EXPO: Commissioner Kiefer and the Coordinator reported hearing about the up-coming Colorado Art Expo at the recent Colorado Arts Consortium Conference they attended. The expo will be held at the convention center in Denver December 6 - 7 and will feature artists, art galleries, art centers, and museums from around the state. The Coordinator encouraged the Commission to consider sponsoring a booth to showcase Grand Junction arts and cultural organizations and artists. Expo organizers will give the Commission a double booth (10' X 20') for \$200, instead of the usual \$800, and additional costs would include the Coordinator's time and travel expenses for whoever attends to help staff the booth. The Commission's Financial Report for year to date expenditures was reviewed, and the Commission will have at least \$1,000 unspent this year, some of which could be used for the expo.

Attendance is expected to be 20,000 people and it would be an excellent way to promote Grand Junction and the cultural community. Works of art by area artists can be offered for sale, and the Grand Junction Visitor's and Convention Bureau can be approached for assistance. Commission members suggested also asking for assistance from the Downtown Development Authority/Art on the Corner and the Art Center, and sending out information about the expo to local artists' organizations to encourage a block of Grand Junction booths. A motion was made by Mangnall, seconded by Meyers, that the Commission participate in the 2003 Colorado Art Expo. The motion carried unanimously. A committee was formed which includes Pamela Blythe, Lee Borden, Karen Kiefer, and Priscilla Mangnall, and a meeting scheduled for October 15 at 4pm at the Spotlight Lounge. The Coordinator will mail expo brochures to art clubs and organizations.

ARTS ROUNDTABLE: The Coordinator suggested resurrecting the annual arts roundtable to provide an opportunity for all arts and cultural groups to get together. She explained that the roundtables were replaced several years ago by the Grand Junction Arts Expo, but since the expo is no longer happening, perhaps another networking activity might be in order. Something similar to the Commission's monthly lunch meeting of major arts organizations (those with paid staff) could be done but open to every cultural group and their board members. Kiefer recommended having Maryo Ewell, former Associate Director of the Colorado Council on the Arts, as keynote speaker, saying that her speech at the Colorado Arts Consortium Conference was excellent. Possible dates, venues, and formats for the roundtable were discussed. A motion was made by Prell, seconded by Meyers, that the Commission host an Arts Roundtable and lunch for board members and staff of area arts and cultural groups October 23 or 24 with Maryo Ewell as the keynote speaker. The motion carried unanimously.

[Note: Because of the speaker's schedule, the event will be held November 7.]

CORRESPONDENCE: Thank you letters were read from Tony Coppola for the Grand Mesa Dance Festival, Piera Kllanxhja for the JABOA Studio Tour, Steven Bradley for the Art Center's Charles Hardy exhibit, and Jeanine Howe for the Coordinator's lecture to a Mesa State College class.

REPORTS: The Coordinator's Reports for August and September were distributed and discussed. Kiefer and Sarmo reported on the Colorado Arts Consortium Conference in Manitou Springs September 13 – 14. Kiefer distributed brochures and flyers from other art councils, pointing out that information from the Commission's *Economic Impact of the Arts in the Grand Valley* report is quoted twice in a statewide arts advocacy handout. Janet Prell noted that Mesa County is hosting an economic development forum and perhaps the economic impact report could be distributed there. It was suggested that the Commission publish a handout listing free area cultural events and activities or show these items in the cultural events calendar in a different color or box.

Blythe volunteered to help with the Commission's slide presentation to the Kiwanis Club October 9, and Kiefer and Meyers volunteered to help with a tour of the City Hall art exhibits September 27. (Commissioner Delmore had to leave the meeting early.)

Business in the Arts Awards Committee: The up-coming Business in the Arts Awards, which will be presented at the January Chamber of Commerce banquet, were discussed. The consensus of the Commission was to keep the same procedure and criteria. Mangnall suggested changing the cover of the two informational brochures to include photographs of past awards. A meeting of the committee to review the nominations and artwork submissions and determine the winners was scheduled for November 13 at 4pm in the Parks office conference room.

City Hall Art Exhibit Committee: Removal of the current exhibit and installation of the new exhibit will be done October 1 at 10am and Commissioners Kiefer, Mangnall, and Meyers volunteered to assist. The opening reception will be that evening from 5pm – 6pm and Commissioners Blythe, Kiefer, and Meyers volunteered to help set up the reception refreshments at 4pm that afternoon. Kiefer and Mangnall will bring punch bowls and the Coordinator will contact Doug Clary about centerpieces.

AVALON ART EXHIBIT: Commissioners discussed a request referred to them by Two Rivers Convention Center/Avalon Theater staff. Artist Camille Silverman would like to display art at the Avalon Theater. The artwork consists of fictional theater tickets drawn on 32 sheets of 8½" X 11" paper and taped to the wall in four rows, plus a related sculpture piece. Silverman's portfolio was viewed. Silverman would like permission to exhibit the artwork at the theater because the work is theater based. Commission members felt the exhibit is vulnerable not being under glass, and noted the need for a well written explanation beside the display because of its abstract nature. The Coordinator noted that Silverman is willing to waive the City's providing insurance for the pieces, and was thinking of a short-term display of less than a week. Whether or not this would start of precedent of regular art exhibits at the Avalon, and if this was a good idea was discussed. After further discussion a motion was made by Mangnall, seconded by Kiefer, to table a decision on the request until the next meeting when all members are present. The motion carried unanimously.

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