

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

Commissioners Present: Pamela Blythe Priscilla Mangnall
Lee Borden Joan Meyers
Doug Clary Bill Whaley
Karen Kiefer

Commissioners Absent: Jack Delmore and Janet Prell
Others Present: Mari Steinbach (Recreation Superintendent)

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 Lee Borden, seconded by Karen Kiefer, to approve the minutes of the Commission's meeting of September 24, 2003 as written. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS: A letter was read from the City Clerk noting that three Commission members' terms expire in February and that City Council would like input from the board as to the skills and expertise the board looks for in a member. Commissioners Karen Kiefer and Joan Meyers both affirmed their desire to be reappointed for second terms, while Bill Whaley said he will not request reappointment so a new person has the opportunity to serve. The Commission discussed the important skills and expertise needed for effective board members, including: 1.) The requirement that at least five members be accomplished in some artistic field (which is currently being met); 2.) That members should in some way be active participants in the cultural community and willing to attend a variety of cultural events (some of which the Commission helps fund); 3.) That new members contribute to the balanced and broad-based make-up of the board, with knowledge and skills that complement those of existing members; and 4.) That prospective members apply specifically for the Commission, and provide a brief resume with the application form which attests to their interest and/or expertise in arts or culture, and not be simply looking for service on any City board or commission. The consensus was to table this item until the next meeting and have the Coordinator draft a letter of response for further discussion.

OLD BUSINESS: Proposed Avalon Theater Art Exhibit by local artist Camille Silverman – this item, tabled from the last meeting, was addressed. The consensus was that artwork at the Avalon should be encouraged, and that the Commission could act in an advisory capacity and would be willing, if asked, to help jury submitted artwork. However, the Commission does not have the resources to commit to coordinating on-going exhibits as is done at City Hall. Mangnall suggested that Avalon art exhibits could be done simply as part of other events already being held at the theater, and recommended pairing the Silverman exhibit with Cinema at the Avalon. The consensus was that Silverman's work is appropriate for display, but would be best appreciated if accompanied by a written explanation. The Coordinator will send a letter on this subject to Michael Brophy, with a copy to Camille Silverman.

The Coordinator also mentioned a suggestion from an Avalon staff member to consider installing new murals of local landscapes on the second floor above the existing mural and in the stairwells. It was noted that the Commission's first priority continues to be protection, cleaning, and renovation of the existing mural.

PUBLIC ART PROJECTS: The Coordinator noted that "Calls for Entries" for 1% for the Arts projects at Canyon View Park and Westlake Park have been mailed to approximately 200 Colorado sculptors, metal workers, and other artists, with a December 12 deadline for submission. Proposals will be reviewed at the Commission's December 17 meeting and finalists chosen. It was decided to invite a professor from the Mesa State College Art Department to serve on the selection committee to help choose the artwork for the parks.

The Coordinator is waiting for a construction contract amount from the Fire Chief and will send out a "Call for Entries" for the Redlands Fire Station 1% art project when this is finalized.

REPORTS: The Coordinator's report for October was distributed and reviewed. Plans for the up-coming Arts Roundtable on November 7 were discussed.

Business in the Arts Awards Committee – a meeting was confirmed for November 13 at 4pm in the Parks office to review artwork and nominations for the annual awards. It was decided to invite the artists whose work was selected as awards last year – Jan Rickman and Charles Morris – to serve on the selection committee and help choose the artwork this year.

City Hall Art Exhibit Committee – a meeting was scheduled for Monday, November 17 at 4pm at the Rockslide to plan the exhibits for 2004.

Colorado Art Expo Committee – a list of artists to invite to participate in the Commission's booth at the December 6-7 Denver expo was reviewed. The Coordinator explained that there is space for five two-dimensional artists on the walls and one or two three-dimensional artists, and that spaces will be filled on a first come first served basis. Involvement by various Commission members to staff the booth was discussed, with Karen Kiefer and the Coordinator planning to attend the entire event and the participating artists expected to help staff the booth as well.

Joan Meyers reported that her son Michael Meyers currently has an installation art exhibit at the Art Center. Meyers also reported that a Colorado Springs school placed first and a Denver school placed fourth in the Washington, D. C. Kennedy Center National Schools of Distinction in the Arts. She explained that this is a very competitive award given to only five schools each year.

As there was no further business to come before the board, the chair declared the meeting adjourned at 6:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Cowan Sarmo
Cultural Arts Coordinator