

Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture  
Minutes  
January 14, 2004

Canyon View Park & Westlake Park 1% for the Arts Project Finalists Presentations

Commissioners Present:    Lee Borden                    Joan Meyers  
                                      Doug Clary                     Janet Prell  
                                      Karen Kiefer                 Bill Whaley  
                                      Priscilla Mangnall

Commission Members Absent: Pamela Blythe and Jack Delmore.

Others Present: Harry Butler (City Council), Joe Stevens (Parks & Recreation Director), Mari Steinbach (Recreation Superintendent), Dennis Derrieux (Parks & Recreation Advisory Board), Jerry Roberts (Parks Maintenance Superintendent), Shawn Cooper (Parks Planner), Gunnar Anderson (sculptor), Michael Clapper (sculptor), John Kincade (National Sculptor Guild Director), Denny Haskew (sculptor), Joe McGrane (sculptor), Pat Olson (sculptor), and Jim Hutton (artist/observer).

Vice-chair Doug Clary called the meeting to order at 12:20pm and the finalists for the 1% projects at Canyon View and Westlake Parks made presentations about their proposed sculptures.

CANYON VIEW PARK: Gunnar Anderson (Durango) presented a model of his proposed kite mobile entitled "A Community That Plays Together" and showed slides of related artwork. The sculpture consists of three brightly painted metal kites atop steel poles three inches in diameter at the bottom and two inches in diameter at the top. The kites could rotate 360 degrees and the poles would move in the wind. He explained that the sculpture would be 30 feet tall, with the lowest point of the kites' tails about twelve feet off the ground. He suggested installing the mobile at one of the park entrances so people see it when they arrive at the park and as they leave. Anderson noted that the sealed ball bearings holding the kites would need no maintenance, noting that he is an architect and works with an engineer on the structural design elements of his mobiles.

Michael Clapper (Colorado Springs) presented a model of his proposed carved limestone monolith entitled "Evolutionary Spiral". He showed slides of similar stone pieces he has done and noted that his piece would be 18 feet tall. Clapper talked about the simplicity and minimalism of his approach, explaining that the piece represents Grand Junction's evolution from a small settlement (the rough rock of the bottom of the piece) to a modern community (the smooth finished top with windows).

John Kincade, Director of the National Sculptors Guild which represents various artists in Colorado and across the country, and sculptor Denny Haskew (Loveland), presented written materials and a model of Haskew's sculpture "Love Song". The sculpture consists of two sandstone monoliths with the bronze head and arms of a flute player coming out of the taller piece of sandstone. The total installation would be 12 feet high by 18 feet long by eight feet wide and the bronze head and arms are twice life-size. Kincade noted that the bronze parts of the piece are affixed to the stone with bridge epoxy and could withstand someone climbing on them. Haskew asserted that a

person could actually stand on the flute player's raised finger and not break it off. Kincade noted that if selected they would like to work with a design team to determine where the sculpture should go. He also said they would guarantee that Grand Junction is the only place on the Western Slope to own the piece, which is an edition of seven, with one currently in California.

WESTLAKE PARK: Pat Olson (Grand Junction) presented slides of his artwork and additional written materials about his proposed piece "Grinding", a life-size layered steel skateboarder mounted atop a graffiti painted highway barrier. Olson noted that his piece would require little maintenance and if vandals tagged it with paint that might not be a problem. He explained that the layered construction of the piece would be similar to the layered style of his piece "Ouray and Chipeta" at City Hall. Each steel layer would be ¼ inch thick with rounded edges, the highway barrier would be three feet long, and the height of the artwork would be eight-ten feet. Olson suggested installing the artwork where there is soft dirt in case someone climbs on it and falls off.

Joe McGrane (Fort Collins) presented slides of his artwork, a model, and a drawing of the piece he is proposing. "Wave Parade" is a series of curved shapes in concrete covered in brightly colored ceramic tiles with a graffiti-like design. McGrane said the sculpture would be about four feet high and 20 feet long and is not just decorative but could be used as a bench. He suggested installing the piece in the area immediately to the right of the entrance, beside the parking lot and skate park. He thought that because the artwork would be surrounded by gravel or grass it wouldn't be used as a skateboard ramp, although that would not harm the work. He showed pictures of several similarly constructed pieces he did in Fort Collins.

Following the presentations and discussion, a vote was taken. For Canyon View Park Gunnar Anderson received four votes and Denny Haskew received six votes plus one proxy from a Commission member who had to leave the meeting early. For Westlake Park Pat Olson received four votes and Joe McGrane received six votes. A motion was made by Lee Borden, seconded by Karen Kiefer to recommend that the City Council approve the purchase of "Love Song" by Denny Haskew for Canyon View Park. The motion carried unanimously. A long discussion ensued about requesting that Haskew promise not to install "Love Song" anywhere on the Western Slope and/or in Colorado, and a motion was made by Doug Clary, seconded by Joan Meyers, to include in the contract negotiations that the City of Grand Junction be given an exclusive right to be the sole owner of "Love Song" within the State of Colorado, or at least within Western Colorado and Eastern Utah. After further discussion the motion was withdrawn, with the understanding that this be part of the contract negotiations but not a formal stipulation of the purchase.

A motion was made by Bill Whaley, seconded by Karen Kiefer, that the Commission recommend that the City Council approve the purchase of "Wave Parade" by Joe McGrane for Westlake Park. The motion carried unanimously.

As there was no further business to come before the board, the Vice-chair declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Cowan Sarmo  
Cultural Arts Coordinator