

Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture
Minutes
March 24, 2004

Commissioners Present: Pamela Blythe Priscilla Mangnall
Lee Borden Janet Prell
Doug Clary Lora Quesenberry
Karen Kiefer

Commissioners Absent: Jack Delmore, Joan Meyers

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 Karen Kiefer, seconded by Lee Borden, to approve the minutes of the Commission's meetings of February 24 and 25, 2004 as written. The motion carried unanimously. The Commission welcomed new member Lora Quesenberry.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2004: Priscilla Mangnall nominated Doug Clary as Commission Chairman and Joan Meyers as Commission Vice-chair. A motion was made by Mangnall, seconded by Borden, to accept the nomination of Doug Clary and elect Clary by acclamation as the Commission on Arts and Culture's Chairman. The motion carried unanimously. A motion was made by Borden, seconded by Mangnall, to approve the nomination of Joan Meyers and elect Meyers by acclamation as the Commission on Arts and Culture's Vice-chair. The motion carried unanimously. Blythe stepped down as the Chair and turned the meeting over to Clary.

COMMISSION COMMITTEES FOR 2004: Functions of the various committees were explained for Quesenberry, and Commissioners wrote down their preferences for committee appointments. Blythe tabulated the results for Clary, and Chairman Clary made the following appointments:

Budget and Finance Committee

Pamela Blythe
Jack Delmore
Doug Clary (on all committees as
Commission Chair)

Karen Kiefer
Priscilla Mangnall
Joan Meyers
Janet Prell

Business in the Arts Awards Committee

Lee Borden
Pamela Blythe
Doug Clary

City Hall Art Exhibit Committee

Doug Clary
Karen Kiefer
(City Hall continued)
Priscilla Mangnall

Joan Meyers
Janet Prell
Lora Quesenberry

Priscilla Mangnall
Janet Prell

Marketing and Media Committee

Pamela Blythe
Lee Borden
Doug Clary

Performing Arts in the Schools Committee

Lee Borden
Jack Delmore
Joan Meyers
Lora Quesenberry

CORRESPONDENCE: A letter was read from the Chamber of Commerce saying that there will not be time on the program of next year's annual Chamber banquet to include the Business in the Arts Awards. Other possible well-attended event ideas for the award presentation were discussed.

Thank you letters were read from the Art Center, KAFM Community Radio, KRMJ Public Television, and the Western Colorado Botanical Gardens for recently awarded Commission grants. A letter was read commending the Commission on their cultural events calendar. A letter was noted from the Mesa County Public Library District about the campaign to build a new library.

REPORTS: The Coordinator's Report for March, First Quarter Financial Report of Commission expenditures to date, a calendar of Commission projects and meetings during 2004, and a list of events the Commission is helping underwrite were distributed and reviewed. With regard to the Coordinator's Report, Janet Prell noted that the name of Mesa County's public television news magazine is "Inside Mesa County". Regarding the calendar, the Commission decided to wash Art on the Corner sculptures and pedestals during removal of the current exhibit June 5 and then repaint the pedestals June 6.

MARKETING & MEDIA COMMITTEE: Clary reported that there were 1748 hits on the Commission's website, www.gjarts.org, in February and about 1400 in January, with about 1700 as a monthly average. Clary noted that he plans to redesign and improve the look of the site, which he maintains on a volunteer basis, in the near future, and asked that the Commissioners all look at the site and make recommendations to him about possible improvements. A Marketing and Media Committee meeting was scheduled for April 14 at 4pm at Clary's house to review the site and discuss the redesign. The Coordinator will check on linking to KAFM's on-line cultural events calendar.

CITY HALL ART EXHIBIT COMMITTEE: The new installation of artwork at City Hall will be done April 1, with an opening reception April 5. Clary, Kiefer, Prell, and Quesenberry volunteered to help with the installation and setting up the reception.

PERCENT FOR THE ARTS: The Coordinator updated the Commission on the progress of several 1% for the Arts projects, noting that contracts for commissioning sculptures for Canyon View and Westlake Parks have been finalized by the City's legal department. Installation of the Canyon View sculpture will be done by May 15, and installation of the Westlake Park sculpture will be done by the end of June. Chairman Clary discussed a

possible request to City Council for additional funding to purchase the popular kite mobile sculpture for Canyon View, since the Commission only has \$10,000 to allocate toward the \$26,000 piece. The Commission reviewed and approved a “Call for Entries” for Wingate Park’s 1% for the Arts project.

REPORTS (continued): The Coordinator reported that local sculptor Jamie Vaida is moving his studio to a building at Second and Ute and wants to build a fence around the gravel lot in front of the building so it can be used for temporary sculpture displays by area sculptors. Vaida is looking for someone to pay the rental fee for the lot (\$150/month). The Coordinator explained that she’d told Vaida the Commission views downtown as Art on the Corner’s sculpture venue, but that the Commissioners might have a fundraising idea. It was suggested that Vaida might be able to sell business sign sponsorships for the “sculpture zoo” along the fence, as is done at Stoker Stadium, depending on the sign code.

Lee Borden reported that The Cabaret’s new theater, The Metro Playhouse, will open April 15 with the play “Love, Sex, and the IRS” and 400–500 season tickets have already been sold.

Information from the economic development theory book The Rise of the Creative Class: And How it’s Transforming Work, Leisure, Community, and Everyday Life by Richard Florida was distributed and discussed. The Coordinator noted that Grand Junction is ranked #176 out of 276 United States cities surveyed in the book’s “Creativity Scale”, with high marks for a strong high tech segment of the economy but low marks for diversity within the community.

As there was no further business to come before the Commission, Chairman Clary declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Cowan Sarmo
Cultural Arts Coordinator