

Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture

Minutes

January 26, 2005

Commissioners Present: Terra Anderson (arrived 4:15pm) Karen Kiefer
Pamela Blythe Priscilla Mangnall (arrived
5:20pm)
Lee Borden Joan Meyers
Doug Clary Lora Quesenberry

Commissioners Absent: Jack Delmore

Others Present: Mari Steinbach (Recreation Superintendent), Shawn Cooper (Parks Planner), Larry Manchester (Recreation Supervisor)

The regular meeting of the Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture was held on the above date. Chair Doug Clary called the meeting to order at 4:00pm. A motion was made by Joan Meyers, seconded by Lora Quesenberry, to approve the minutes of the Commission's meeting on December 1, 2004 as written. The motion carried unanimously.

1% FOR THE ARTS PROJECTS: The Coordinator reported that the Commission has two pending 1% for the Arts projects – artwork for the new splash playground structure at Lincoln Park and artwork for a new restroom building at Duck Pond Park. Parks Planner Shawn Cooper explained the construction projects, noting that the restroom will look very much like the new restroom facilities at Columbine and Riverside Parks, with construction from March – September. The new restroom will cost approximately \$110,000, so 1% would be \$1100. Artwork could be a tile mosaic on the building, a park bench, or something in the small plaza area at the base of the nearby stairs. A “Duck Pond” theme could be optional.

Cooper distributed examples of splash playgrounds and explained that the splash ground will replace the existing wading pool. Artwork could be a tile mosaic on the building or in the splash ground, colored or stamped concrete, or benches. A lion theme could be optional, in honor of the Grand Junction Lion's Club grant for this project. Construction cost for the splash playground is approximately \$90,000, so 1% would be \$900. The Coordinator suggested that the Commission could add funds from their budget to increase this amount and thus encourage larger artwork. The Parks Department wants to have this project completed by Memorial Day weekend when the swimming pool opens. The Coordinator distributed a draft “Call for Entries” for 1% art for both projects and the consensus of the Commission was to be fairly open-ended in the solicitation. Because of the tight construction timeline at Lincoln Park, the Commission discussed having a special meeting March 2 to review the artwork proposals.

A motion was made by Lora Quesenberry, seconded by Terra Anderson, to send out a “Call for Entries” for a \$2,000 1% for the Arts project for the Lincoln Park Pool Splash Playground, using Commission funds in addition to the 1% allocation, as well as a \$1,100 1% for the Arts project for the Duck Pond Park restrooms, and to review art proposals at a special Commission meeting at 4pm on March 2. The motion carried unanimously.

SELF-ASSESSMENT SURVEY: The Coordinator and Commission members went through a brief non-profit organization self-assessment survey questionnaire which addresses general business procedures and organizational concerns. No new projects or pressing problems surfaced.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AND PROJECTS: The Coordinator distributed and members reviewed a calendar listing Commission meetings, deadlines, and other information for 2005. The consensus of the Commission was to help with the annual Art on the Corner Sculpture Change in June again this year. Chairman Clary recommended checking into what options exist for sculpture pedestals that don't need to be painted, since this job has become so extensive now that there are so many pedestals. The Coordinator will contact All Metals Welding about this idea. Two meeting date typos were noted—the March meeting is March 23, the May meeting is May 25.

COLORADO COUNCIL ON THE ARTS GRANT APPLICATION: The Commission discussed what to apply for this year to the Colorado Council on the Arts and the consensus was to submit the same request as in past years – funding to add to the Commission's own grant program which supports local arts and cultural events and programs – and if the grant is approved, to ask CCA not to send the check until January 2006.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: A motion was made by Joan Meyers, seconded by Terra Anderson, to re-elect Doug Clary Commission Chair for 2005 by acclimation of the board. The motion carried unanimously. A motion was made by Karen Kiefer, seconded by Lora Quesenberry, to re-elect Joan Meyers Commission Vice-chair for 2005 by acclimation of the board. The motion carried unanimously. Committee appointments were tabled until new Commission members are appointed.

REPORTS: The Coordinator's Reports for December 2004 and January 2005 and the end of year Financial Report for 2004 were distributed and reviewed. The Coordinator updated the Commission about progress on Gunnar Anderson's kite mobile for Canyon View Park, noting that Anderson will not be able to complete and install the sculpture by the end of June as he previously thought, so the projected completion date is September 30, 2005. Secondly, Anderson promised to make every effort to build the mobile 36 feet tall, as requested by the Commission, but the model was engineered to be 27 feet and he was uncomfortable with including 36 feet in the contract until further engineering can be done. Thirdly, Anderson agreed to stipulate that he will not duplicate this artwork in a substantially similar form within a 400 mile radius of Grand Junction.

The Coordinator reported on an idea from a Parks Department Forestry Division crew member to do a wood carving on a large tree which was recently removed, expect for the trunk and one branch, near the Lincoln Park playground. Another Parks employee is an accomplished carver and is willing to work on a volunteer basis, with help from two Forestry crewmen. A pile of playing children was mentioned as a possible design motif and the Coordinator explained that the actual design should be reviewed by the Arts Commission, Parks Director, and others for approval. Chairman Clary recommended making sure the tree is sound before work is done and he offered the use of his scaffolding if the project goes forward. The Coordinator and the Chair will meet with the artist and the Forestry Division crew members to discuss the proposal.

The Coordinator reported on an idea from a local artist to appoint a Grand Junction Artist-in-Residence for the City or the Commission, primarily to organize and promote more arts activities like artists painting on the street, among other things. Limited funds in the Commission's budget caused the idea to be tabled, Commissioners suggesting that perhaps the Downtown Partnership should be the more appropriate sponsor.

CORRESPONDENCE: Thank you letters for grant donations were noted from the Grand Junction Symphony, KAFM Community Radio, and the Mesa County Public Library

Foundation. A thank you letter from City Hall art exhibiter Herb Urban was read and a letter from the Schumann Singers stating that they will not need to apply for a Commission grant this year. As there was no further business to come before the board, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 6pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Cowan Sarmo
Cultural Arts Coordinator