

Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture  
Minutes  
March 2, 2005

Commissioners Present: Terra Anderson Karen Kiefer  
Pamela Blythe Joan Meyers  
Lee Borden Lora Quesenberry  
Doug Clary

Others Present: Joe Stevens (Parks & Recreation Director), Mari Steinbach (Recreation Superintendent), Larry Anderson (Recreation Supervisor), Tina Ross (Aquatics Coordinator), Bernie Goss (Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Chairman), Kory Jones and Tom Ziola (Parks Dept. Forestry Division), and Marc Mancuso (artist).

A special 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 Terra Anderson, seconded by Joan Meyers, to approve the minutes of the Commission meetings on February 22 and February 23, 2005 as written. The motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC ART IN LINCOLN PARK:** Kory Jones of the City Forestry crew presented a proposed Lincoln Park tree carving project near the playground area. A large tree has been removed near Gunnison Avenue and Jones thought it would be an excellent site for a chain saw carved work of art. Artist Marc Mancuso, also a City employee, is willing to volunteer his time to carve the tree and showed the Commission a preliminary design sketch of children playing, which would be done in relief up and down the tree trunk and remaining branch and then painted. Jones and forester Tom Ziola said they would also volunteer to help Mancuso carve the tree.

Ziola said he discussed the project with Dr. Swift of the Colorado Extension Service, and that a City of Aspen forester will soon be bringing equipment to check the structural integrity of the tree trunk. Ziola also talked with another carver for pointers and was told that the tree can be carved while still green and that the best surface treatment is three coats of boiled linseed oil, with annual retreatment, which the forestry crew can maintain.

The consensus of the Commission is that this is a great idea, Joan Meyers noting that it is a wonderful way to open the world of art to young children who will be frequenting the playground. Bernie Goss, chairman of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, and Joe Stevens, Parks & Recreation Director, also expressed endorsement of the project.

**PERCENT FOR ART PROJECTS – SPLASH PLAYGROUND AND DUCK POND PARK:** The Coordinator distributed proposals and design sketches from four artists – two tile/ceramic mural artists from Grand Junction, a sculptor/ceramicist from Gunnison, and a sculptor from Denver. Joe Stevens noted a need for the Splash Playground project in general to honor the generous Grand Junction Lions Club donation in some way, explaining that the lion theme cannot be accomplished within the splash ground and spray equipment itself.

Various elements of the four art proposals were discussed. Tina Ross pointed out a potential glass breakage problem if vandalism were to occur, in reference to one proposal which includes pieces of fused glass. Stained glass artist Karen Kiefer explained that fused glass is somewhat more difficult to break than regular glass but also more difficult to maintain as an exterior application since it may become cloudy over time outdoors. Another art proposal, children and a lion painted on Plexiglas, was discussed, with reference to the possibility of the surface being easily scratched. Slides and photographs of artwork done by the four artists were reviewed.

Whether or not it was important to go with a lion as the main element of the artwork was discussed and the Coordinator reported that there was also a possibility of a gateway or archway feature being done for the area that would include a lion or the Lions Club logo in it, and that the "Call for Entries" to artists had said a lion theme was optional. Two of the proposals included lion figures and two did not. Larry Manchester showed a drawing of the proposed design of the splash ground and spray equipment, which the Commission found helpful.

Commission members did not express a strong preference for any of the four proposed designs and felt a more playful approach, with a stylized or cartoon-like silhouette of a lion, perhaps in powder coated metal, would be a good idea. This type of whimsical art piece would appeal to young children and metal would be virtually maintenance free and vandal resistant. Pamela Blythe suggested a series of columns rather than a single gateway, to replace the interior chain link fence which is being removed, as delineation between the main pool and the splash ground. The Commission discussed several different artwork possibilities since none of the proposals were obvious choices.

The Coordinator noted that the Commission has satisfied any requirement to open and advertise the 1% artwork selection process to all artists and now had several options: 1.) Accept one of the proposed designs and work with the artist to refine it; 2.) Reject all four proposals and find an artist of their own choosing to do the type of piece they want designed; or 3.) Add more funding from the Commission's budget and re-advertise the "Call for Entries" in the hope that a larger budget will entice more artists to submit proposals. She noted that the third option would mean the piece probably won't be completed when the entire project is completed, but that this won't hold up construction since the art isn't be an integral part of the splash ground area itself.

Chairman Clary suggested allocating an additional \$1,000 from the Commission budget for artwork purchase and re-advertising the 1% project. A motion was made by Karen Kiefer, seconded by Pamela Blythe, to add another \$1,000 from the Commission's budget and re-advertise the Lincoln Park Pool 1% for the Arts project, and to include more ideas for artwork like a gateway, archway, or columns with lion figures, and to include a picture of the proposed splash ground in the "Call for Entries". The motion carried unanimously.

Three artwork proposals were reviewed for the 1% project at the new Duck Pond Park restroom building, but because of the time, and because this project won't be completed until fall, a motion was made by Blythe, seconded by Kiefer, to table selection of the Duck Pond Park artwork until the next meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Cowan Sarmo  
Cultural Arts Coordinator