

Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture  
Minutes  
March 23, 2005

Commissioners Present: Terra Anderson Karen Kiefer  
Gunilla Bishop Joan Meyers  
Pamela Blythe Vera Mulder (arrived 4:30pm)  
Doug Clary Lora Quesenberry

Commissioners Absent: Lee Borden

Others Present: Larry Manchester (Recreation Supervisor), Reford Theobold (Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and Grand Junction Lions Club), Priscilla Mangnall (Grand Junction Lions Club), Mari Steinbach (Recreation Superintendent),

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 4:05pm and welcomed new member Gunilla Bishop. The board members introduced themselves to Bishop. A motion was made by Joan Meyers, seconded by Karen Kiefer, to approve the minutes of the Commission's meeting on March 2, 2005 as written. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS: The Coordinator distributed a list of current Arts Commission committees and the members of each. The Coordinator suggested deleting the Performing Arts in the Schools Committee which was added to the list last year but never met. Pamela Blythe suggested adding a new committee – the Art in Public Places Committee – to assist with requests from other organizations for help with public art projects of all kinds and to encourage artwork and/or a more artistic approach to possible development projects. The Coordinator noted that she left the Budget and Finance Committee off the list because it hasn't met for two or three years since the Commission deals with the budget as a whole. The function of each committee was explained to Bishop. New Commissioner Vera Mulder arrived and the board introduced themselves to her. The members filled out their committee appointment preferences and Vice-chair Joan Meyers tabulated the committee lists. The Chairman appointed the following board members to the following committees:

- Art in Public Places Committee: Terra Anderson, Gunilla Bishop, Pamela Blythe, Vera Mulder, and Doug Clary (the Commission Chair is a member of all committees)
- Artrain Committee: Gunilla Bishop, Lora Quesenberry, Joan Meyers, Vera Mulder, and Doug Clary
- Business in the Arts Committee: Pamela Blythe, Lee Borden, Karen Kiefer, Joan Meyers, and Doug Clary
- City Hall Art Exhibit Committee: Terra Anderson, Karen Kiefer, Lora Quesenberry, and Doug Clary
- Marketing & Media Committee: Lee Borden and Doug Clary

An orientation for the new Commissioners was scheduled for Wednesday, March 30 at 4:30pm.

PERCENT FOR ART PROJECTS - LINCOLN PARK POOL SPLASH PLAYGROUND: The Commission discussed the four proposals received and reviewed at the last meeting for 1% for the Arts artwork in conjunction with the new Splash Playground. The Coordinator reported that the Parks and Recreation Director wanted to encourage the Commission to try and have the artwork project completed by the time the splash pad project is completed, noting that this would preclude starting over with a new Call for Entries, as was decided at the last meeting. She reported on recent telephone conversations with all four artists, in answer to various Commission concerns about each proposal. She presented two new designs for a ceramic tile mural from Ken Pierce (Gunnison) and noted that Karina Stevens (Grand Junction) offered to do a tile mural of circus animals or lions rather than the proposed dolphins, if that was what the Commission wanted. She also noted that Vinje Lawson (Grand Junction) thought a mural painted on Plexiglas would hold up well without much maintenance, but was checking on how easy it would be to buff scratches out of the plastic, and that Reven Swanson (Denver) thought the enamel paint and fused glass she proposed in her abstract wave-shaped steel pieces would also hold up well for many years.

The Coordinator reported that she also contacted sculptor Pat Olson, a Grand Junction artist who specifically works in the type of metal cut-outs that the Commission discussed at the last meeting, and that Olson is interested doing a proposal for this project. Larry Manchester showed the group the proposed splash ground and a copy of the Grand Junction Lion's Club logo, explaining that the logo will be included somewhere in the splash ground area in ceramic tile. The Coordinator explained that the logo doesn't qualify as a possible 1% for the Arts project since it is not an original creation. Priscilla Mangnall presented a design for a possible archway with metal silhouettes of circus animals and the Lions Club logo, as a suggestion. The Coordinator wondered if a lion-themed work of art would look out-of-place since a lion theme isn't part of the splash pad itself. Reford Theobald stated that a lion theme in the artwork would be great but not required.

Vera Mulder wondered if the Commission might solicit donations from local businesses in order to get a larger work of art than the budget allows. Pamela Blythe suggested contacting local sculptor Donna Aubert, who also works in metal cut-outs. The consensus of the Commission was to reject all four of the proposed designs and redesigns, and to contact Pat Olson and Donna Aubert for proposals. Mulder offered to contact a high school or college ceramic class about donating work as part of a possible archway. It was decided to change the orientation meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 30 to a meeting of the entire Commission, in hopes of making a decision and completing the 1% artwork by the time the Lincoln Park Pool opens for the season.

DUCK POND PARK RESTROOM BUILDING ART PROJECT: The consensus of the Commission was to table selection of 1% artwork for the new building until the April 27<sup>th</sup> meeting.

AVALON MURAL RESTORATION: The Coordinator reported that the Avalon Theatre Committee has been investigating how to clean and restore the large mural on the second floor of the theater. She reviewed the Commission's research into restoration and protection of the mural two years ago, noting that she discussed this with an Avalon Theater committee person and has been invited to attend the April Avalon board meeting to talk about the mural. She stated that local restoration expert John

Hensley thought a thorough cleaning, touch-up, and varnishing of the painting would cost \$3,000 - \$4,000, suggesting that if the Commission could allocate \$1,000 - \$2,000 of this cost, perhaps the Avalon board would cover the difference, since they have some funding available. She noted that the Museum of Western Colorado thought a grant might be possible, but only if the mural can be dated, which no one has been able to do. Mulder suggested the Mormon Church genealogy files might be a resource for this. The Coordinator noted that the mural is one of the largest City-owned works of art and its protection has been a Commission concern for some time. A motion was made by Kiefer, seconded by Meyers, to allocate \$1,000 toward restoring and protecting the Avalon Theater mural. The motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE: Thank you letters for Commission donations were noted from the Art Center, Cinema at the Avalon, Grand Junction Symphony, Pastel Society, Wingate Elementary and Appleton Elementary.

REPORTS: The Coordinator's Report for March and the Financial Report of expenditures to date were distributed and reviewed. The Coordinator presented a request from artist Jodi McIntosh to show a video of her dances that coordinate with the art pieces she will be displaying at City Hall during the opening reception, but the Commission felt this would not be feasible or appropriate.

Commissioners Karen Kiefer, Joan Meyers, and Vera Mulder expressed interest in attending the May 20–21 Colorado Council on the Arts economic development conference "Culture, Commerce, Community" in Denver, along with the Cultural Arts Coordinator. Mulder may only be able to participate on the second day due to her work schedule.

Several Commission members volunteered to attend up-coming Commission funded events:

March 29 and 31 Grand Junction Symphony opera performance – Doug Clary, Gunilla Bishop, Terra Anderson, and Karen Kiefer

May 5 Grand Valley Community Theatre "Yours, Anne" play production – Joan Meyers

May 27, June 24, July 29, August 26 Western Colorado Botanical Gardens concerts – Doug Clary, Joan Meyers, and Lora Quesenberry

June & July Art Center Summer Art Camp – Vera Mulder (who will be teaching a class)

June 10–12 Downtown Association Art & Jazz Festival – several Commissioners

June 26 Colorado Symphony Concert – Doug Clary and Karen Kiefer

City Hall Art Exhibit Committee members and others volunteered to help with installation of the new art exhibit at City Hall and the April 1<sup>st</sup> opening reception, including Terra Anderson, Doug Clary, Karen Kiefer, Joan Meyers, and Lora Quesenberry.

As there was no further business to come before the Commission, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 6:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Cowan Sarmo

Cultural Arts Coordinator