

Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture  
Minutes  
April 27, 2005

Commissioners Present: Terra Anderson Doug Clary  
Gunilla Bishop Karen Kiefer  
Pamela Blythe Vera Mulder  
Lee Borden Lora Quesenberry

Commissioners Absent: 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 Doug Clary called the meeting to order at 4:00pm. A motion was made by Karen Kiefer, seconded by Vera Mulder, to approve the minutes of the Commission's meeting on March 30, 2005 as written. The motion carried unanimously.

PERCENT FOR ART PROJECTS–DUCK POND PARK: The three artwork proposals submitted in March for the 1% for the Arts project at the Duck Pond Park restroom building were reviewed, having been tabled at a previous meeting. Further questions about the designs were raised and the Coordinator will find out if Reven Swanson is still interested in the project and can fuse glass pieces to glass block, and clarify the size of Ken Pierce's proposed ceramic piece. The project was tabled.

ARTRAIN: The Coordinator distributed information about the Artrain USA traveling art museum, which is scheduled to come to Colorado sometime in 2006. The Commission must make a \$500 deposit to reserve the train's visit to Grand Junction, although Artrain can't confirm a specific date for some time yet. The Coordinator noted that the Artrain visit will be a major special event for the Commission to sponsor, and will cost about \$15,000, involve 100 – 200 volunteers, and attract many school children and citizens during the four day visit. She also reported that Joan Meyers recently spoke to Connie Robbins Brady with the Mesa County School District #51 Art Heritage Program, who is excited about the project and can help provide volunteers.

A community-wide steering committee will need to be formed in the near future to begin work on the project, if the Commission is committed and wishes to proceed. Karen Kiefer noted that the retired school teachers' association and the retired railroaders' association are both interested in helping, and that Artrain came to Grand Junction 25 – 30 years ago. Lee Borden suggested that local businesses might be willing to help sponsor the project. A motion was made by Kiefer, seconded by Vera Mulder, to allocate a \$500 deposit for an Artrain USA visit to Grand Junction, preferably in either April, May, September, or October of 2006. The motion carried unanimously. The Coordinator will find out if Artrain has information showing what organization sponsored the previous Grand Junction visit, and get a commitment from them as to when we will have a firm date.

COLORADO ALLIANCE FOR ARTS EDUCATION AWARD TO ANN SANDERS: The Coordinator reported that the Commission's nominee for CAAE's Gully Stanford Professional Services Award won the award, and that the presentation will be held in Denver Wednesday, May 11 at 4pm. Joan and Don Meyers will accompany the Coordinator to the award ceremony. Having a reception in Grand Junction to honor Ann Sanders was discussed, and the consensus was to combine it with the next City Hall

Art Exhibit Opening Reception on July 1, since Sanders was just recently honored at a major retirement event given for her at Mesa State College. The Coordinator will find out if this idea and date are acceptable for Sanders.

PERCENT FOR ART PROJECTS–WINGATE PARK: The dedication of the Wingate Park will be May 19 at 2:30pm, and Commission Chair Doug Clary will have a brief part on the program to point out the new sculpture which was purchased through the 1% for the Arts program.

CO COUNCIL ON THE ARTS CULTURE.COMMERCE.COMMUNITY CONFERENCE: The Coordinator and Commission members Karen (and Dennis) Kiefer, Joan (and Don) Meyers, and Gunilla Bishop will attend the CCA conference in Denver May 20–21. The logistics of carpooling, accommodations, and registrations were discussed.

COMMISSION GRANT PROGRAM: A letter was read from the Western Slope Chamber Music Association asking that the Commission allow them to apply the \$800 grant awarded to them for the Grace Bahng concert in April toward the Master Players West Concert in May, since Bahng had had to cancel her concert due to family illness. A motion was made by Pamela Blythe, seconded by Kiefer, to allow this change in the grant allocation. The motion carried unanimously.

LINCOLN PARK OPENING DAY TILE MURAL PROJECT: The Commission discussed an idea from Mari Steinbach to have children attending opening day at the Lincoln Park Pool May 28 decorate individual ceramic tiles which would then be mounted on the side of the pool house facing the new splash playground. It was suggested that the Parks Department might be willing to weld a frame for the tiles and that this might become an annual project. It was decided to do the project on Saturday, June 18, rather than opening day, due to Commission scheduling conflicts. Vera Mulder volunteered to organize and supervise the work, and Commission members Karen Kiefer, Gunilla Bishop, and Doug Clary volunteered to help. Both Mulder and Kiefer have access to a kiln and Mulder will do the necessary grouting between the tiles. Mari Steinbach will work on publicity and will contact the Parks crew about framing and mounting the tiles once they are done.

REPORTS: The Cultural Arts Coordinator's report for April was distributed and reviewed. The Coordinator reported that she met with the Avalon Theatre Committee April 14 about protection and restoration of the mural at the Avalon, and discussed protection alternatives including varnish (after the painting is cleaned and restored), Plexiglas over the entire picture, or a brass rail in front of it. She has been researching railings which will look authentic to the building but not be visually intrusive, and she also discussed railing heights with the City Risk Manager and two brass rail distributors. Applying to the Colorado Historical Society for funds to help cover the \$4,000 restoration cost is an option in October. The Avalon Committee voted to allocate \$1,500 toward restoration and protection, which will supplement the \$1,000 authorized by the Commission, and used as matching funds to apply for the Historical Society grant. The consensus of the Commission was to do a railing or cable attached to stanchions, rather than covering the painting with Plexiglas.

Pamela Blythe reported that in Santa Fe, New Mexico a portion of the city's lodging tax is used to fund arts and culture, asking if this is a possibility in Grand Junction. The Coordinator noted that this not unusual and is done in several cities, but

that Grand Junction's lodging tax is specifically reserved for the Visitors and Convention Bureau. She will research the issue further.

As there was no further business to come before the board, the Chair adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Cowan Sarmo  
Cultural Arts Coordinator