

Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture
Minutes
January 25, 2006

Commissioners Present: Pamela Blythe Joan Meyers
 Doug Clary Vera Mulder
 Karen Kiefer Lora Quesenberry
 Jeanine Howe Katherine Rhein

Commissioners Absent: Gunilla Bishop

Others Present: Traci Altergott (Recreation Superintendent), Mickie Harshman (visitor)

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 Joan Meyers, to approve the minutes of the Commission's meeting on December 7, 2005 as written. The motion carried unanimously.

New Commissioners Jeanine Howe and Kat Rhein were introduced and welcomed to the board.

NEW BUSINESS: An upcoming grant application to the Colorado Council on the Arts was discussed, and the consensus of the Commission was to request \$8,000 to be used to augment City funding for the Commission's grant program which supports arts and cultural events and projects. This is what the Commission applies for every year and it is usually funded by CCA.

The Colorado Business Committee for the Arts/Arts for Colorado "Strong Arts, Strong Communities" seminar scheduled for March 9 in Grand Junction was discussed. The Cultural Arts Coordinator reported that CBCA seems to be doing little advance planning and recently cancelled an identical seminar in Steamboat Springs with only two weeks notice. Karen Kiefer felt that their proposed agenda is not the best. Pamela Blythe reported that CBCA and the Colorado Council on the Arts are currently busy working on a major exhibition of corporate art in Denver February 8, which will include paintings Blythe is supplying from the St. Mary's Hospital collection. The consensus of the Commission was that since the event date is only six weeks away, there is not sufficient time for CBCA to finalize a good program and the Arts Commission to publicize the event in order to attract the desired crowd of 100 people. The Commission decided to withdraw as a host site for the seminar, since it's better to cancel it now rather than have CBCA cancel it at the last minute. The Coordinator will ask the Colorado Business Committee for the Arts if the Commission might receive a share of the grant funds CBCA was given to do the seminar series.

Numerous thank you letters and hand-made cards were read from students in the artist-in-residence classes at Pomona Elementary for the grant Pomona received from the Commission.

A first page draft of the Commission's annual "State of the Arts" report to the City Council was reviewed and corrected.

ARTRAIN USA: The Coordinator reported that the Artrain USA Program Director continues to insist that Artrain – a nationally renowned traveling art museum in a train – will be able to come to Grand Junction April 12 – 16, but that the local Union Pacific representative continues to insist that a specific track site to park the four-car train for six days is not available because the railroad is so busy. Since the proposed visit is only about ten weeks away, the consensus of the board was that there is not enough time for the Commission to adequately arrange all the events surrounding the exhibit – schedule school tours for 4th, 5th, and 6th graders, recruit volunteers as docents and local artists as demonstrators, get teaching materials out to the teachers in advance, and organize an opening gala – for a major multi-day festival/exhibition which may not actually happen. The Commission decided that if Artrain cannot finalize a designated track site for their train by February 1, then the event should be cancelled rather than be done poorly.

PUBLIC ART: Chair Clary reported on the installation of Gunnar Anderson's kite mobile at Canyon View Park January 17. The Coordinator reported that Pat Olson's sculpture for the Lincoln Park Moyer Pool Splashpad should be installed within the next few weeks.

A draft "Call for Entries" for the 1% for the Arts artwork to be selected for the new City gymnasium at Bookcliff Middle School and the new joint-use gymnasium at the Pear Park elementary school were reviewed. The Coordinator reported that this request for proposals will go out to artists in early February and the selection of artwork will be made at the Commission's regular meeting March 22. The artwork will be installed by the time construction of the two new schools is completed in August. The 1% amount for each project will include any and all costs associated with the artwork, including foundation or footings if necessary, so that the artwork doesn't require any additional expenses on the part of the Commission or Parks & Recreation.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS/COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS: Pamela Blythe moved to nominate Karen Kiefer for the position of Commission chair for 2006. Karen Kiefer moved to nominate Joan Meyers for Commission chair and Lora Quesenberry for vice-chair. Blythe withdrew her nomination and seconded Kiefer's motion. The motion carried unanimously.

A list of Commission standing committees was distributed and functions of each explained. Commission members wrote down their committee preferences and newly elected chair Joan Meyers compiled the results and made the following appointments for 2006:

Art in Public Places Committee

Vera Mulder
Kat Rhein
Lora Quesenberry
Joan Meyers (on all committees as Chair)

Champion of the Arts Awards Committee

Doug Clary
Jeanine Howe
Karen Kiefer
Joan Meyers
Vera Mulder
Kat Rhein

City Hall Art Exhibit Committee

Karen Kiefer
Joan Meyers
Lora Quesenberry

Marketing and Media Committee

Doug Clary
Jeanine Howe
Joan Meyers

REPORTS: Pamela Blythe reported that The Limner's Guild, a group of local painters, recently donated 80 works of art to complete the new remodel of the Latimer House at 11th and Main.

The Coordinator's monthly reports for December 2005 and January 2006, the Commission's financial report of total expenditures in 2005, and the calendar of Commission meetings and projects during 2006 were all distributed and reviewed. As there was no further business to come before the board, Clary declared the meeting adjourned at 6:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Cowan Sarmo
Cultural Arts Coordinator