

Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture
Minutes
May 24, 2006

Commissioners Present: Gunilla Bishop Joan Meyers
 Doug Clary Vera Mulder
 Karen Kiefer Robert Oppenborn
 Jeanine Howe

Commissioners Absent: Lora Quesenberry, Katherine Rhein

Others Present: Donna Page, Linda McBride

The regular meeting of the Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture was held on the above date. Chair Joan Meyers 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 April 26, 2006 as written. The motion carried unanimously.

CITY HALL ART EXHIBITS: Mesa State College art professor Donna Page and artist Linda McBride appeared before the Commission to present their idea of doing a "Tribute to the Grand Mesa" art exhibit in October 2007. McBride explained that we live in a beautiful area which may change with oil and gas exploration on the Grand Mesa and elsewhere, and the exhibit's purpose is to create visual art which records, celebrates, and calls attention to the unspoiled majesty of the natural landscape and the pristine wilderness. Some local galleries and the Museum of Western Colorado are interested, and artists throughout Western Colorado will be invited to participate.

McBride explained that she and Page would like to collaborate with the Commission and other organizations to do the exhibit as a community-wide show in numerous venues throughout the Grand Junction area; however, the Art Center decided they can't participate since the exhibit is not educational and so does not fit into their mission. Page explained that she and McBride have never mounted a large-scale art exhibit before and would like assistance from the Commission and other resources to accomplish the project, and want the Commission's "stamp of approval".

The Coordinator stated that the Commission could provide mailing labels of 250 local artists for \$10 for the call for entries flyer, and could consider hanging the exhibit at the City Hall next year, although the 2007 artists have already been decided and would have to be rearranged. The Commission discussed the fact that this would be a departure from the established procedure of inviting artists and organizations to display art at City Hall, and that if the Commission decided to pursue having this exhibit there, then the City Council should be given a chance to approve or disapprove the exhibit given the potentially controversial political statement it might make. A motion was made by Jeanine Howe, seconded by Vera Mulder, to put the Commission's stamp of approval on the exhibit, and refer the request to display at City Hall in 2007 to the City Hall Art Exhibit Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC ART: The Coordinator reported that the Commission's Art in Public Places met May 9 to discuss the request for assistance from the City Public Works Department with selection of an artist or artists to create artwork for two roundabouts at the I-70 and 24 Road interchange. The Committee's recommendation is for artwork which reflects Grand Junction and our area rather than the usual CDOT roundabout bronze elk and deer which have been done in the mountain towns of Avon, Vail, Frisco, and Edwards. The City will be selecting a landscape design firm very shortly and the artist(s) would work with the landscape firm. The Coordinator distributed samples of roundabout art from other locales, much of which was fairly abstract or geometric, as well as similar Art on the Corner pieces. A draft call for entries/request for qualifications was reviewed and two changes made, and a motion was made by Doug Clary, seconded by Vera Mulder, that the Commission be a resource for and work with the Public Works Department, CDOT, and the landscape designers on this project and the artist selection. The motion carried unanimously.

MARKETING AND PROMOTION: The Coordinator reported that an opportunity has arisen to do a large two-page advertisement in the September issue of *Southwest Art* magazine promoting Grand Junction's arts amenities for a special advertising section entitled "Emerging Art Towns". She noted that several local arts organizations and the Grand Junction Visitor and Convention Bureau are meeting to discuss collaborating on this ad spread and asked the Commission to allocate funding from their advertising budget toward this project (about \$500 per organization.) She stated that *Southwest Art* is a very high quality magazine which should be an effective advertising vehicle for the local cultural community, and that the Commission has unencumbered funds available. A motion was made by Karen Kiefer, seconded by Vera Mulder, to allocate \$500 toward the *Southwest Art* advertisement. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMISSION BOARD RETREAT: The Commission discussed scheduling a board retreat to do some long-range planning and reviewed the mission and goals. It was decided to have the retreat July 19 from 4pm-8pm, and to refer planning the retreat to the Marketing and Media Committee. A meeting of the Marketing Committee was set for May 30 at 4pm [this was later changed to June 15.] The Coordinator will find someone to facilitate the meeting.

LINCOLN PARK MOYER POOL KIDS TILE PAINTING PROJECT: Final plans were discussed for the Commission's tile painting event Sunday, June 11, which Commissioners Kiefer, Meyers, Mulder, and Rhein volunteered to do. The tiles which the children paint will be fired by Mulder and arranged into a mural to be mounted to the side of the pool house wall.

REPORTS: The Coordinator's Report for May was distributed and reviewed. The Coordinator will be attending the national Americans for the Arts Public Art Network annual conference in Milwaukee June 1-2. She reported that the date and location for the Commission supported Artspace & Open Studios Invitational Show has been changed to October 7 at the Redlands Mesa Golf Course Clubhouse, and artists' booth fees are \$170 and \$140 for Artspace members.

The Coordinator reported that on May 3 the City Council approved the Commission's recommendation to have Tom and Jean Latka create 1% for the Arts tile art murals for the new gymnasiums at Pear Park Elementary and Bookcliff Middle School, and a contract was finalized.

A meeting of the City Hall Art Exhibit Committee was scheduled for June 14 at 4pm to discuss the "Tribute to the Grand Mesa" exhibit's being included in the City Hall exhibit calendar.

Flyers and newsletters from other arts organizations and various public art magazines were circulated. As there was no further business to come before the board, the chair declared the meeting adjourned at 5:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Cowan Sarmo
Cultural Arts Coordinator

[The Commission's June 28, 2006 regular monthly meeting was cancelled.]