

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

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

Commissioners Absent: Lora Quesenberry
Others Present: Traci Altergott (Recreation Superintendent)

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 Doug Clary, seconded by Vera Mulder, to approve the minutes of the Commission's meeting on September 27, 2006 as written. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC ART – GEORGE CRAWFORD: The Commission reviewed and discussed four drawings from artist Mark Wahlberg showing possible poses for the George Crawford memorial sculpture. After much discussion and a straw poll, drawing #A received the highest number of votes. The Coordinator reported learning from Ted Ciavonne, the landscape designer of the 7th Street streetscape project, that the sculpture will be placed at the north end of the new 7th Street median nearest Grand Avenue, in front of the R-5 School. After further discussion about the statue being primarily a drive-by viewing opportunity rather than a pedestrian viewing opportunity, and the need for the figure to be easily identified, the consensus was that drawing #B, which includes a sign saying "Grand Junction", would be the best, with the inclusion of a hammer in Crawford's hand.

Clary suggested the Commission ask City Council to commission a statue which is 1½ times life size, not just the 1-1/8 size that Wahlberg was proposing, because figures look much smaller outdoors than they actually are. A motion was made by Clary, seconded by Jeanine Howe, to approve design #B, and to ask the artist to include a hammer in Crawford's hand and to make the sign larger. The motion carried unanimously. A motion was made by Clary, seconded by Mulder, to ask the City Council to approve funding to make the statue 1½ times life size. The motion carried unanimously. A Commission meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, November 8 at 5pm to review and approve photographs of the maquette (model) Wahlberg will be creating.

PUBLIC ART – BOOKCLIFF ACTIVITY CENTER: Recreation Coordinator Stacy Pike appeared before the Commission to ask that the board consider funding additional artwork in the lobby of the new activity center. The possibility of doing interior tile art or stained glass windows was mentioned. A meeting of the Commission's Art in Public Places Committee was scheduled at Bookcliff on Wednesday, November 8 at 4pm to look at the lobby and consider this request.

COMMISSION GRANT PROGRAM: The guidelines and criteria for organizations to apply for a grant from the Commission were reviewed, since the grant program will be discussed at the up-coming November 14 Arts Roundtable meeting of local arts and cultural organizations' staff and board members. The Cultural Arts Coordinator recommended – and the Commission agreed – including the vision statement from the Grand Junction Strategic Cultural Plan in the guidelines, which says: "***Grand Junction is recognized as a place where people live and visit because arts and culture are a major attraction and an important element in the quality of life of the community.***"

Clary recommended – and the Commission agreed – raising the spending cap on requests to fund capital expenditures and/or equipment purchases from \$1,000 to \$1,500. The Commission discussed re-instituting the three year limit on giving grants for the same project, but decided this would adversely affect several on-going programs which are usually funded every year.

COMMISSION BOARD MEMBER JOB DESCRIPTION: The Commission reviewed their job description, which has not been updated for several years, and the consensus was to eliminate item #4, since the Commission doesn't actually hire or set the salary for the Cultural Arts Coordinator, and to delete the line in item #3 about serving as liaisons with other local cultural organizations.

The Commission reviewed a draft of a new Board Member Commitment statement (an idea from the July board retreat), and the consensus was that each year Commission members should commit to serve on two Commission committees, attend at least two City Hall opening receptions, and attend at least two Commission sponsored cultural events. It was decided to include the Commission's Conflict of Interest statement in the Board Member Commitment. document, and not to ask Commissioners to pledge a specific number of volunteer hours, but rather to commit to attend events and programs in which the Commission is involved.

REPORTS: The Coordinator's Reports for September and October, and the Commission's Financial Report of 2006 expenditures to date, were distributed and reviewed. Kat Rhein reported that she is appearing in the Paramount Playhouse's female version of "The Odd Couple" November 18. Vera Mulder reported that she has artwork in an exhibit at the Red Brick Art Center in Aspen which opens November 12. Recreation Superintendent Traci Altergott thanked the Commission for their vision in selecting the tile art mural at Bookcliff Activity Center as the 1% for the Arts project, and she noted that the Cabaret Theatre's two performances of their recent children's show earned \$1,700 for the Parks & Recreation Scholarship Fund.

A thank-you letter from the Two Rivers Chautauqua Festival was noted. Chair Joan Meyers reported that the Grand Junction Symphony's recent Mozart concert was very good. Commissioners Meyers, Kiefer, and Mulder volunteered to attend the Nov. 14 Arts Roundtable, and Meyers, Mulder, and Oppenborn volunteered to attend the Nov. 19 Bach choral concert.

1% FOR THE ARTS PROGRAMS—GJVCB WELCOME CENTER ADDITION: The Commission discussed artwork for the new addition at the VCB Welcome Center. The Coordinator reported that this will be a \$387,000 construction project, so 1% would be \$3,870. The Coordinator reported having met with Debbie Kovalik, Barb Bowman, and other VCB representatives, and their hope is to purchase the large kinetic sculpture by Darrel McKay in the Art on the Corner exhibit. This piece, however, costs \$22,000, and the VCB is willing to help fund the additional expense, but asked if the Commission might be willing to help cover some of the extra funding as well.

The Coordinator said she explained to the VCB how the 1% program works and that the usual procedure involves sending out a call for entries (request for proposals) to Colorado artists asking for art proposals and then selecting artwork from those submittals. She noted that the 1% guidelines don't require an RFP process, especially when the 1% amount is relatively small, as in this case, and that the Commission could forego the RFP process in favor of selecting an Art on the Corner sculpture, especially a piece by a Mesa County artist.

The consensus of the Commission was not to offer help with the necessary additional funding, but to honor the VCB's art preference. A motion was made by Jeanine Howe, seconded by Mulder, to dispense with the Call for Entries process and to select Mesa County artist Darrel McKay's Art on the Corner sculpture for the 1% for the Arts project at the GJVCB Welcome Center, as long as the Visitor and Convention Bureau paid for the piece. The motion carried unanimously. As there was no further business, the chair declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Cowan Sarmo
Cultural Arts Coordinator