

Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture
Minutes
June 27, 2007

Commissioners Present: Gunilla Bishop Lora Quesenberry
 Doug Clary Katherine Rhein
 Jeanne Killgore

Commissioners Absent: Jeanine Howe, Don Meyers, and Vera Mulder

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 Jeanne Killgore, seconded by Kat Rhein, to approve the minutes of the Commission's meeting on May 23, 2007. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMISSION BUDGET FOR 2008 – 2009: The Coordinator presented proposed budgets for 2008 and 2009 and the Commission reviewed the figures with regard to providing adequate funding for special projects and on-going programs which the Commission undertakes each year. The Coordinator recommended including funds to accomplish a major upgrade and updating of the Commission's website (www.gjarts.org) in 2008, so that the Sourcebook artist directory, monthly press releases, and other information can be more easily entered and updated by someone hired for this purpose, rather than continuing to try and function just with volunteers. Chairman Clary recommended increasing the postage budget, since the Commission is doing more informational mailings and has consistently overspent that line item. The Commission discussed funding for the grant program, reprinting the Sourcebook directory in 2008, the Champion of the Arts Awards, and the annual purchase of artwork. A motion was made by Killgore, seconded by Rhein, to accept the proposed budget, with a postage increase. The motion carried unanimously.

CHAMPION OF THE ARTS AWARDS: The Commission reviewed the procedure for soliciting nominations for and selecting the annual Champion of the Arts Awards and award artwork, and the consensus was to keep the process the same as last year. The award winners will be selected in September and the awards presented during the Grand Junction Symphony Gala on November 10. Rhein noted that this recognition program should be focused on increasing business awareness of the value of arts and culture to the economic health of the community. The Commission discussed the recently completed "*Economic Importance of the Arts in the Grand Valley*" study and several suggestions were made, including: 1.) Submit economic information to the Downtown Partnership (Kathy Dirks) for inclusion in the Grand Junction Free Press' Downtown page; 2.) Advertise the Champion of the Arts Awards nominations and winners in the "Business Times"; 3.) Offer to present the economic impact information to the major service clubs (Clary and Rhein volunteered to speak) and take Champion of the Arts Awards nomination brochures; and 4.) Put copies of the economic impact report out throughout the community where the bi-monthly calendars are distributed; and, 5.) Do a survey form for attendees at Commission events.

AVALON THEATRE CAPITAL PROJECT: The Commission reviewed a letter to the Avalon Theatre Advisory Board about the proposed \$3 million capital construction project which Harold Stalf and Ron Beech had presented to the Commission at their last meeting. The main points of the letter stated: "The Commission certainly supports the idea that the City should invest in the long-term capital facility needs of the theater, as they did in 2001 at Two Rivers Convention Center... The Commission supports the Avalon Advisory Board's capital improvement proposal as a step in the right direction toward making the theater the premier performance facility for Grand Junction that it should be, with some reservations. Obviously the proposal hinges entirely on both Cinema at the Avalon and the Grand Junction Symphony

committing to be long-term tenants of the facility and to partner with the City on major capital improvements. And while we acknowledge that maintaining the viability of these major tenants would be paramount, the Commission feels it's important that improvements to the building continue to make it useable to a wide range of potential users. Long-time supporters and users like the Sweet Adelines and others should still have a home there, if they wish. Toward that end the Commission encourages improving the backstage and wing space areas on the existing Avalon stage, and also encourages investigating a somewhat more versatile stage area in the proposed new 112 seat auditorium which could occasionally be used by groups in addition to the Cinema (with the provision that the Cinema is given use of the main auditorium if they are bumped from the small auditorium, so their consecutive film runs can be preserved). Improving the Avalon's virtually nonexistent storage space, dressing room/green room space, rehearsal space, and box office are very much needed, and the Commission applauds these ideas. New seating is definitely an immediate necessity. The Commission has no comment on the proposed staffing/management plan in the proposal, since this is a City Council decision." A motion was made by Rhein, seconded by Bishop, to have the Chair sign and to send the letter to the Avalon Advisory Board. The motion carried unanimously.

CITY 125th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION: The Commission discussed plans for the June 30th 125th Anniversary events, including the George Crawford statue unveiling, a reception being held for the artist, and the Commission's kids tile painting booth. Commissioners volunteered for the various events: Clary and Rhein will set up the tile painting tables and canopy; Bishop, Killgore, Mulder, and Rhein [and Meyers] will staff the tile painting; and most of the members will attend the statue unveiling and set up and put away the chairs in front of City Hall for that event.

REPORTS: The Coordinator's Reports for May and June were distributed and reviewed. The Coordinator read a letter announcing that the Commission was awarded a grant of \$9,000 from the Colorado Council on the Arts to include as part of the Commission's 2008 grant program.

A letter was read from Joe Graham with the Celtic Singers praising the Commission's grant program and support of a variety of local arts and cultural events and projects as being one of the things which helps maintain the attractiveness and diversity of the arts in Grand Junction.

The Coordinator noted that The Grand Tribute Grand Mesa Art Exhibit, which organizers had asked about displaying at City Hall, will be shown in three downtown galleries in October.

The next installation of artwork at City Hall will take place July 2nd, with a reception on July 6th, and Bishop volunteered to help with the installation and with setting up for the reception.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Cowan Sarmo
Cultural Arts Coordinator