

Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture
Minutes
March 26, 2008

Commissioners Present: Gisela Flanigan Vera Mulder
 Jeanine Howe Lora Quesenberry
 Jeanne Killgore Katherine Rhein
 Don Meyers Tanya Smith
 Pam McLaughlin

Others Present: Traci Altergott (Recreation Superintendent), and Legends Historical Sculpture Committee members Jacquie Chappell-Reid, Priscilla Mangnall, Janice Burtis, Miffie Blozvich

The regular meeting of the Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture was held on the above date. Chair Kat Rhein called the meeting to order at 4:00pm. New Commission members Pam McLaughlin and Tanya Smith were welcomed and introduced to the group. A motion was made by Don Meyers, seconded by Jeanine Howe, to approve the minutes of the Commission's meetings on February 26, 2008 and February 27, 2008. The motion carried unanimously.

LEGENDS HISTORIC SCULPTURE PROJECT: The Commission and the Legends Committee members, having requested the Commission's help with artist selection, reviewed proposals from artists invited to submit their qualifications, ideas, and price estimates to do a sculpture of Grand Junction community activist and *The Daily Sentinel* publisher Walter Walker. Eleven artists had received the Request for Qualifications, and the three artists who offered proposals were Michael McCullough of Ridgway, Raymon Anderson of Grand Junction (who created the bust of Joe Lacy), and Mark Wahlberg from California (who created the statue of George Crawford).

The Committee and the Commission discussed the various proposals, artists, and photographs of each artist's past work, as well as the Legends Committee's wish to tell a story with each historical sculpture through an active stance or additional elements in the pieces. It was suggested that having a variety of artistic styles and interpretations of the historic figures would be a benefit to the project. A motion was made by Jeanine Howe, seconded by Jeanne Killgore, recommending that the Legends Historic Sculpture Project commission Michael McCullough to create the Walter Walker sculpture. The motion carried, with Commission and Legends Committee members voting, 12 in favor, and Priscilla Mangnall opposed.

It was recommended that local artists Charles Hardy and Laverne Mosher, and Utah artist Gary Price be added to the list of artists invited to submit proposals for future Legends projects.

Jacquie Chappell-Reid distributed information about the Legends Historic Sculpture Project to the Commission, with a request that the Commission donate to the project. Committee members explained that the hope is to raise funds for and commission five sculptures of historic Grand Junction men and women over the next five years. The memorial sculptures will become part of the Art on the Corner permanent collection and serve as a downtown walking tour of historic figures, building on the artwork of historic people which have already been done – George Crawford, Dalton Trumbo, Chipeta and Chief Ouray, and Joe Lacy.

The proposed bronze sculptures are: 2008 – Walter Walker; 2009 – William Moyer; 2010 – Sister Mary Balbina Farrell (founder of St. Mary's Hospital); 2011 – John Otto; and 2012 – the downtown Operation Foresight Founders. It was noted that the Downtown Development

Authority has pledged \$10,000 each year for five years, as long as the sculptures are located downtown. The Commission discussed their \$10,000 annual line item for the purchase of art, noting that often they use this money to augment 1% for Art projects or other purchases, and the fact that their budget is allocated on a year to year basis which would preclude a multi-year pledge. The Commission was enthusiastic about the Legends Project, but because it is still early in the year and other needs might arise, the Commission was reluctant to commit their entire \$10,000 to one sculpture. A motion was made by Jeanine Howe, seconded by Don Meyers, to donate \$5,000 to the 2008 Legends Historic Sculpture Project, and if funding is still needed by the Committee and available in the Commission's budget toward the end of 2008, to revisit this request later in the year. The motion carried with six in favor, Commissioners Flanigan, McLaughlin, and Mulder opposed. The Legends Committee members thanked the Commission and left the meeting.

1% FOR ART PROJECTS AT DUCK POND PARK AND SHERWOOD PARK: The Commission reviewed proposals from local artists Lylamae Chedsey and Vinje Lawson, submitted in response to the Commission's "Call for Entries" to Mesa County clay artists for tile murals at the new restrooms being built at Sherwood Park and Duck Pond Park. Lawson proposed enlisting children from the Tope Elementary School neighborhood to help design and create the Sherwood Park piece. Chedsey proposed designing a piece for either or both buildings of handmade tiles. A motion was made by Vera Mulder, seconded by Pam McLaughlin, to recommend that the City Council approve commissioning Vinje Lawson to do the 1% for Art project for the Sherwood Park restroom building and Lylamae Chedsey to do the 1% for Art project for the Duck Pond Park building. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMISSION COMMITTEES FOR 2008: The Coordinator distributed a list of the Commission's standing committees, noting that she removed the Marketing and Media Committee from the list since it has not met for at least two years. The duties of each committee were explained for the two new Commission members. The Coordinator also distributed copies of the Commission's "Board Member Commitment Statement" for the board's review, which the new members signed and returned. Commission members submitted their committee preferences to the chair, who will make committee appointments. It was noted that Gisella Flanigan and Vera Mulder also represent the Commission on the Grand Valley Scientific and Cultural Alliance, and that Don Meyers is going to be serving on the Legends Sculpture Project Committee.

COMMISSION FUNDED CULTURAL EVENTS: The Coordinator distributed a list of dates for up-coming arts and cultural events and activities awarded Commission grants, and board members took turns volunteering to attend each event on behalf of the Commission. Gisella Flanigan reported having heard that the recent Music Teacher's Association's Sonatina Festival was very good.

CORRESPONDENCE: Thank you letters to the Commission for grant funding were noted from the Grand Junction Symphony, Grand Junction Music Teachers Association, Downtown Partnership, Artmobile of Colorado, The Art Center, and The Schumann Singers.

REPORTS: The Coordinator's Report for the month of March was distributed and reviewed. The Coordinator brought up the idea of the Commission purchasing a \$650 full page display advertisement in a new full color resource directory of Western Colorado artists and arts organizations, which is being put together by a local company, Rumours Publications. Another magazine style publication which has just been published by Rumours was shown to the board as an example of the work they do. The Commission had a number of questions about how the artist directory would be distributed and marketed, the Coordinator explaining that Rumours hoped to sell the directory in local bookstores and give it away at hotels and tourist venues. The consensus of the Commission was to invite a Rumours representative to make a presentation at the Commission's next meeting.

The Chair asked about the sculptures being created for the two roundabouts at 24 Road and I-70 and the Coordinator will call the artist for an update.

CITY HALL ART EXHIBIT COMMITTEE: Jeanne Killgore reported having spoken to photographer Darlene Merkel about exhibiting her work at City Hall and that Merkel would be pleased to do so. Another photographer, Dr. Scott Lybrook, was recommended for inclusion on the Commission's list of artists. Arrangements were made to install a new art exhibit on April 1, with Meyers and Killgore volunteering to help with the installation, and an opening reception on April 2, with Killgore and Rhein volunteering to help set up the reception refreshments.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Cowan Sarmo
Cultural Arts Coordinator