

Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture  
Minutes  
July 10, 2008

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

Commissioners Absent: Vera Mulder, Katherine Rhein

Others Present: Deputy Police Chief Troy Smith, Public Works Project Manager Jim Shanks

A special meeting of the Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture was held on the above date. Vice-chair Don Meyers called the meeting to order at 4pm.

**PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING:** A presentation about the proposed new City public safety building was made to the Commission by Deputy Police Chief Troy Smith and Public Works Project Manager Jim Shanks. The public safety ballot initiative will include a total of seven different buildings, four on the downtown campus and three new fire stations in outlying parts of town. Construction of these facilities would be funded by an increase in City sales tax, of which only 18% is actually paid by City residents, the rest by out-of-towners. Architectural renderings of the downtown site plan and the main building's front elevation were shown and described. Smith and Shanks answered questions from Commission members about the proposed initiative.

**1% FOR ART PROJECT AT NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES/FLEET SERVICES BUILDING:** The Coordinator reported on a recent meeting she had with City Manager Laurie Kadrich, Assistance Financial Operations Manager Jay Valentine, Purchasing Supervisor Scott Hockins, and Neighborhood Services Manager Kathy Portner to revisit the artist chosen by the selection committee at the last Commission meeting for the Neighborhood Services/Fleet Services building's 1% for Art project. The Coordinator explained that immediately following the Commission's June 25 meeting, reservations were raised by members of Fleet Services about the artist's idea for artwork, and the City Manager had recommended putting the artist selection on hold until after the landscaping project at the site was completed and then revisiting the type of artwork which might be appropriate for that building, leaning more toward functional art like a bike rack and benches.

The Coordinator explained that in her July 3 meeting with the City Manager and others, Laurie Kadrich recommended that the Commission should have more discretion in selecting City sites for the placement of public art, so that artwork purchased through the 1% for Art program is installed in locations where it will have the most public benefit, rather than at City facilities like the Neighborhood Services/Fleet Services/Purchasing building.

Jay Valentine recommended creating a special and separate fund for 1% for Art funds, so that they could be pooled and allocated toward larger art projects, rather than having to be restricted to only the 1% amount for each site specific capital construction project. Kadrich suggested that the Commission take a broad look at the 1% for Art Resolution adopted in 1997 and see if these and other changes would make sense, now that the Commission has ten years of experience working with the 1% for Art program.

The Coordinator distributed copies of the 1% for Art Resolution and the Commission discussed: 1.) Whether or not to proceed with the current Neighborhood Services/Fleet Services art project as it was decided at the last meeting or to go in another direction; 2.) Whether to reject the previous decision and advertise for functional artwork as well as photographs for the Purchasing Department's conference room (as was subsequently suggested by Neighborhood Services); and 3.) Whether to revise the 1% Resolution to make the art projects less site specific, and to create a separate Public Art Fund (the provision for which already exists in the Resolution but had not been done previously on the recommendation of the former City Finance Director).

It was noted that the ability to pool funds in a special fund would alleviate the difficulty of finding artists willing to create small works of art for minor construction projects like park restrooms. And the ability to put public art in the most public locations would augment the original intent of the 1% for Art program – to enhance the aesthetics of the City's urban spaces.

Commission members expressed serious concerns about changing the procedure for or decision about the artist selected for this project after the decision had already been made, and made with input from several representatives of Neighborhood Services, Fleet Services, and Purchasing. Commission members also expressed concerns about using 1% funding to purchase art for a conference room that few members of the general public ever visit. And Commission members expressed concerns about purchasing only functional items like a bike rack and bench unless it was a larger project to do a series of public benches by various artists.

A motion was made by Jeanine Howe, seconded by Lora Quesenberry, to proceed with the artist selected for this project at the Commission's June 25 meeting. After further discussion about the benefits of revising the 1% Resolution to allow the pooling of funds and to allow artwork to be less site specific in some cases, Howe withdrew her motion.

A motion was made by Howe, seconded by Smith, to proceed with the artist selected for this project at the last meeting, but to find another location for the proposed artwork so it will be seen by more members of the general public, and to proceed with reviewing and possibly recommending to the City Council a revision of the 1% for Art Resolution. The motion carried unanimously.

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