

Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture
Minutes
September 24, 2008

Commissioners Present: Jeanine Howe Vera Mulder
 Don Meyers Lora Quesenberry
 Pam McLaughlin Tanya Smith

Commissioners Absent: Gisela Flanigan, Jeanne Killgore, and Katherine Rhein

The regular meeting of the Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture was held on the above date. Vice-chairman Don Meyers called the meeting to order at 4:10pm. A motion was made by Vera Mulder, seconded by Lora Quesenberry, to approve the minutes of the Commission's meeting on August 27, 2008. The motion carried unanimously.

ANNUAL CHAMPION OF THE ARTS AWARDS: The Champion of the Arts Awards committee reported that the following nominations had been received and reviewed:

BUSINESSES:	NOMINATED BY:
Enstrom Candies	Mesa State College Department of Theatre Arts
13 Photography Gallery	Mickie Harshman
Quality Inn	Western Colorado Chamber Music Series
Wells Fargo Bank	Western CO Center for the Arts, GJ Musical Arts Association, & Western CO Botanical Gardens
INDIVIDUALS:	
Terry Shepherd	Western Colorado Center for the Arts
Gary Ambrosier	John Cunningham/GJ Centennial Band
Paul Cruz	Robert Salazar, Terry Moore, Ann Hanson, & Christine Knight
Chris Gibson	Holy Family Catholic School
Robert Peterson	Rev. Sharyl Peterson

The Committee recommended awarding Enstrom Candies in the Business Category and Terry Shepherd in the Individual Category, noting that all of the nominations were very deserving and that the choice was difficult, but that a couple of the nominees have already received the award. After careful discussion and a review of the nominations, a motion was made by Vera Mulder, seconded by Pam McLaughlin, to approve the Champion of the Arts Awards Committee recommendations and honor Enstrom Candies and Terry Shepherd as the 2008 Champions of the Arts. The motion carried unanimously.

The Committee also reported that they had received and reviewed photos of 32 original works of art by local artists to purchase as the awards for the Champion recipients. The Commission looked at the six pieces selected by the Committee as finalists, which the artists had brought in for review. After much discussion, a motion was made by Jeanine Howe, seconded by Tanya Smith, to purchase the collage "Light in the Forest" by Gayle Gerson for \$550 to award to Terry Shepherd and the photograph "Serenity" by Andre Delgalvis for \$750 to award to Enstrom's. The motion carried unanimously.

REOPORTS: The Coordinator's Report for September was distributed and discussed. The Coordinator noted that a Request for Proposals to redesign and maintain the Commission's website – gjart.org – has been sent to local firms and advertised through the City's Purchasing Department, and that there will be a meeting October 21 to review proposals and decide on three finalists, who will then make presentations at the next Commission meeting. Don Meyers and Vera Mulder volunteered to attend the October 21 meeting.

Recent Commission supported cultural events were discussed, and a written report e-mailed from Commissioner Gisela Flanigan was distributed. Flanigan had attended the Independence Film Festival at the Avalon, Two Chairs Theatre Company's play "The Guys", and the Two Rivers Chautauqua Festival at Cross Orchards Historic Site. Among other observations Flanigan felt that all of these programs were good choices for Commission grant funding and that the Commission should support them in the future. The Cinema at the Avalon's film festival was discussed and Commission members who attended were generally pleased with the project, although they thought that the festival would have been better attended with more advance publicity. With regard to "The Guys", Howe and Meyers had also attended and were impressed with the acting. With regard to Chautauqua, Meyers particularly enjoyed the Eleanor Roosevelt portrayal and Mulder thought the organizers had done a good job with publicity.

ARTS EDUCATION COMMITTEE: The Commission discussed scheduling a meeting of the new Arts Education Committee and possibly inviting Art Heritage Coordinator Connie Robbins-Brady, to discuss what the Commission could do to encourage more comprehensive arts education in District 51 schools. It was noted that numerous studies show that students who take arts classes of any kind make better grades. A committee meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, October 14 at 4pm at the Parks and Recreation office. The meeting will focus on writing goals for the new committee aimed at finding ways to increase arts education of all types in the schools. It was decided that this first meeting should be just Commission members. Mulder suggested that the Commission could talk to PTA and PTO organizations about the importance of arts in the schools. Doing a teacher in-service training about arts education was also mentioned. Smith asked if the Commission wanted to facilitate getting more art teachers or getting more teacher training? The Coordinator noted that the committee needs to aim for starting any new programs or efforts in 2009, since 2008 funds are already committed.

CITY HALL ART EXHIBIT COMMITTEE: The next new exhibit at City Hall will be installed on Wednesday, October 1 and Meyers and Quesenberry volunteered to help with the installation.

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