

Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture
Minutes
January 28, 2009

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

Others Present: Traci Wieland (Recreation Superintendent), Legends Historic Sculpture Committee members Jacquie Chappell-Reid, Miffie Blozvich, Samuel Baseler, Lois Becker, and Priscilla Mangnall; Odette Phelps (City of Fruita), Connie Robbins-Brady (School District #51)

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 4pm. A motion was made by Don Meyers, seconded by Lora Quesenberry, to approve the minutes of the Commission's meeting on December 3, 2008. The motion carried unanimously.

LEGENDS HISTORIC SCULPTURE COMMITTEE: Members of the Legends Committee appeared before the Commission to request \$10,000 in funding for the William Moyer sculpture, which has been commissioned and will be completed in October 2009. Miffie Blozvich noted that the committee hopes to raise \$400,000 for five historic sculptures over the next five years, and with donations from businesses, individuals, the Commission, and the City, the fundraising is at the halfway point. Jacquie Chappell-Reid distributed brochures and information about the Legends project, noting that it will promote the idea that communities survive because of great leadership. The Coordinator distributed photographs from the sculptor of the maquette for the piece. Chair Kat Rhein expressed the Commission's pleasure and excitement about the Legends project, but the consensus of the Commission was that this project should be treated like all other arts and cultural projects, and that this request should be submitted through the grant process.

Commission member Vera Mulder introduced City of Fruita Human Resources Director Odette Phelps, who came to observe a Commission meeting because Fruita has appointed a new Arts Commission. Phelps is co-staffing Fruita's commission with Recreation Director Ture Nycom.

ARTS EDUCATION: The Commission's Arts Education Committee recommended initiating a new grant program specifically to fund artist-in-residence programs by regionally or nationally known artists in all disciplines in Grand Junction area schools. Jeanine Howe reported that the committee had met several times to discuss how best to improve education in all the arts, and had taken a look at both the Commission's current grant program goals and objectives as well as the arts education recommendations in the *Grand Junction Strategic Cultural Plan (2001)* for guidance in formulating goals and guidelines of this new project. Mulder and Smith noted that funding wasn't needed at the high school level because they have art and music teachers on staff, although Connie Robbins-Brady with School District #51 noted that arts education is needed at all grade levels. Connie Robbins-Brady explained that currently there are nine elementary schools with active artists-in-residence programs taught by local artists (which the Commission previously funded through their existing grant program until the School District decided it would

fully fund those programs.) Brady noted that all artist-in-residence programs must meet Colorado Model Content Standards and include quarterly training for the artist teachers. Brady also reported that 18 out of the 24 elementary schools in the district offer Art Heritage of some type, utilizing 250 trained volunteer teachers once a month. There are also two after-school art programs and two schools – Fruitvale Elementary and Thunder Mountain Elementary have part-time certified art teachers on staff.

Brady noted, for planning purposes, that the cost to bring in Denver artist Tony Ortega for an artist-in-residency would be \$5,150. After a careful review of suggested grant guidelines, a motion was made by Mulder, seconded by Howe, to set aside \$15,000 in the Commission's 2009 budget to fund a new arts education grant program as recommended by the Arts Education Committee. The motion carried unanimously. Smith suggested making a presentation to the school board for their endorsement in case the program needs to grow significantly in the future.

1% FOR ART PROJECTS: Traci Wieland, Recreation Superintendent, discussed with the Commission the fact that the City will be constructing a new restroom, shelter, sidewalks, parking areas, and playground at Melrose Park on Orchard Avenue. The estimated cost for the project (not including the playground) is \$200,000, of which 1% will be \$2,000. Wieland explained that the large rocket in the existing playground can no longer be used as a play structure for liability reasons, but that the neighborhood community very much wants to keep the rocket. Ideas for turning the rocket into a sculpture were discussed, mainly involving removal of the slide attached to the side of it and remounting the structure so it can't be climbed. Rhein suggested contacting several local artists (Jeff Bates in Fruita, Lyle Nichols in Palisade, and/or Lee Baxter and Nick Russotto in Grand Junction) for creative ideas. The consensus of the Commission was to utilize the 1% for Art allocation toward making the rocket a sculpture element in the park.

REPORTS: The Cultural Arts Coordinator distributed a calendar of Commission projects and meetings during 2009 and several up-coming projects were discussed. Various members reported on cultural events they had attended recently: Rhein said the Symphony's "Nutcracker" was very good, Howe and Sarmo said that Aspen Dance Connection's Showcase was outstanding; McLaughlin said the Western Colorado Chorale's concert was excellent. Howe, Flanigan, and Meyers reported having attended High Desert Opera's New Years Eve Gala. Having seen the exceptional quality of the Aspen Dance performances, the Coordinator recommended that the Commission give particular consideration to awarding grant funding to cultural events which are of the highest quality. The Coordinator presented a request from Kristen Ashbeck (Neighborhood Services) for one or two Commission members to help judge a student art entry-way design contest in Clifton; Vera Mulder and Pam McLaughlin volunteered.

The Coordinator presented a request from Lorie Gregor, senior recreation coordinator, to exhibit award-winning artwork by seniors from the Senior Games at City Hall in September. The consensus of the Commission was to do this for one week during the last week of September. As there was no further business, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Cowan Sarmo
Cultural Arts Coordinator