

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

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

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 4:05pm. A motion was made by Don Meyers, seconded by Lancer Livermont, to approve the minutes of the Commission's meeting on September 23, 2009. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS: The Commission discussed changing the November 25, 2009 meeting to early December, and the consensus of the board was to hold a single, combined November and December meeting on Wednesday, December 9, 2009 at 4:00pm.

OLD BUSINESS: The Commission discussed at length the idea of starting a Grand Junction Art Students League, which artists Sara Oakley had presented to the board in August. Oakley's one page synopsis of the adult art students league idea and a three page business plan for the new organization were distributed and reviewed, along with letters of support and interest from 22 local artists. The business plan, budget, and letters were done at the request of the Commission in answer to issues raised at the last meeting. After a review of the plan, however, the following questions arose:

1. Is the idea really more of an art teachers league rather than an art students league, since it sounds somewhat similar to the GJ Music Teachers Association?
2. The Commission wants to promote inclusivity in all things, so why isn't membership open to any art teacher; why do people need to be "sponsored"?
3. How exactly do people become members, what's the selection process, and if they are juried in, who will do the jurying?
4. Will there be sales of artwork at the monthly sessions?
5. There's a concern about calling the monthly sessions "Open Studios" since Artspace & Open Studios already exists here in town.
6. Who will design and maintain the website, and are there websites for other art student leagues around the country which the Commission could research?
7. Is this mainly to market art teachers; how does it serve the larger community?

The consensus of the Commission was to table the matter once again and invite Sara Oakley to attend the next meeting for discussion and clarification.

CORRESPONDENCE: A thank you letter was read from Think 360 Arts in Denver for the Commission's help in sponsoring and publicizing the recent Statewide Arts Education Network Meeting in Grand Junction October 3. Thank you letters were read from Artspace & Open Studios and the Readers Festival for Commission grants to those organizations.

REPORTS: Jeanine Howe reported on the Readers Festival, noting that the day-long event for writers and readers was a good use of Commission grant funding, and that while the attendance was good, there was almost no one under 50. Howe suggested, in a letter she had sent to the festival organizers following the event, that scholarships be offered to college students so they could also attend, since many of the authors who spoke talked about how they began their careers and what they thought they did right and what things went wrong for them.

Kat Rhein reported on the Artspace Open Studios Tour, which was also a very good event, well attended, and local artists had sold artwork during the tour. Pam McLaughlin noted that Artspace continues to grow as an organization and that it is a very inclusive group.

Gisela Flanigan and Vera Mulder reported on the presentations by author Buck Wilder in numerous area elementary schools, which the Commission had underwritten in support of arts education. Both Flanigan and Mulder expressed disappointment in the presentations, noting that they were geared more toward selling Buck Wilder's books than actually teaching the children about writing. They felt like this was not a true artist-in-residence opportunity for schools, which is what the Commission had thought they were promoting.

The Coordinator's Report for October and the Year-To-Date Financial Report were distributed and reviewed, and updates were included on the following public art projects:

1. *Chipeta Elementary 1% for Art Project* – artist Tracy Munson is working on a sculpture of Chipeta for the school to be completed the end of April;
2. *GVT Bus Transfer Station 1% Project* – Oct. 1 the artist installed the new sculpture;
3. *Lincoln Park Pool "Wooshie" Sculpture* – artist Terry Burnett is working on a new piece;
4. *5th Street & Riverside Parkway 1% Project* – Oct. 2 the artist replaced all the tops of "Aspen Trees" to correct a problem with breaking "branches" in high winds;
5. *Rocket Park 1% for Art Project* – Orchard Avenue Elementary students are working on creating a tile mural for the restroom building; the rocket will be reinstalled as art;
6. *City Cemetery 1% Project* – a new building was approved and a Call for Entries for a tile mural will be written and sent out, with artist selection at Commission's January meeting
7. *Legends William Moyer Sculpture* – Oct. 16 unveiling ceremony and reception
8. *Legends Sister Mary Balbina Sculpture* – Oct. 8 presentation to the Downtown Development Authority board to approve the contract with sculptor Greg Todd

The Coordinator also reported that local sculptor Nick Russotto is proposing to cast a bronze sculpture of his marble piece "Paternity" (which was in the 2008 Art on the Corner exhibit and which shows a father holding a baby) and donating the sculpture to the City for Canyon View Park. Russotto is an employee of the Parks & Recreation Department and says he often sees fathers with their children at the park and thought it would be an appropriate site. Commission members reviewed a photo of the marble piece and were enthusiastic about the possible donation. A motion was made by Jeanine Howe, seconded by Melonie Buchanan, to approve and accept a donation of the "Paternity" sculpture from artist Nick Russotto for Canyon View Park. The motion carried unanimously. As there was no further business before the board, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 5:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Cowan Sarmo
Cultural Arts Coordinator