

Grand Junction Commission on Arts and Culture  
Minutes  
March 24, 2010

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

Commissioners Absent: Gisela Flanigan

Others Present: Lorie Gregor (Recreation Coordinator), Robbie Urquhart (Fruita Arts & Culture)

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 Jeanine Howe, seconded by Jeanne Killgore, to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2010 and February 24, 2010 Commission meetings as written. The motion carried unanimously.

**ARTS EDUCATION SUPPORT:** The Commission had offered schools throughout Grand Junction assistance in bringing in visiting artists for arts education workshops, and a request was reviewed from Orchard Avenue Elementary School for \$1,000 to fund performances and story telling workshops by Creede Repertory Theater for Orchard Avenue and two other schools. The Commission discussed the request and also the need to better clarify the hands-on nature of the artist-in-residence programs the Commission wants to support in the future. A motion was made by Jeanine Howe, seconded by Melonie Buchanan, to approve \$1,000 for Orchard Avenue Elementary's Creede Repertory Theater visit. The motion carried unanimously.

**REPORTS:** Commission member Vera Mulder reported on her attendance at Arts Advocacy Day February 26, noting that the Colorado Council on the Arts gave a presentation about their Creative Economies Study and the benefits of the creative industries throughout Colorado. She said she had visited with local state legislators that afternoon to promote the arts. Mulder noted that representatives pay more attention to personal letters from constituents than to e-mails and phone calls, so that this type of advocacy has the most impact.

Chair Kat Rhein and other Commission members reported on the March 20 Arts Forum which the Commission had hosted and which attracted about 60 artists and others from around Western Colorado. The Coordinator distributed a report on the various small group discussions that took place as well as the tabulated artists/arts district survey questionnaire. It was recommended that links be added to the Commission's website for the Colorado Council on the Arts and Think360Arts, and that the Commission ask organizations to include the Commission's web address with the City logo when the Commission sponsors events through their grant program. The Coordinator showed copies of a national *Guild Sourcebook* of artists as an example of the type of full color art catalogue that the Commission's *Sourcebook* might become.

The Coordinator distributed a first quarter financial report and her report of activities for February and March, including updates on the following Commission/City public art projects:

1. Chipeta Elementary School's 1% for Art Project – Cedaredge artist Tracy Munson is working on a statue of Chipeta for the school to be completed by May 1;
2. Lincoln Park Pool "Wooshie" sculpture – local artist Terry Burnett has completed a repair of the vandalized fiberglass fish sculpture, adding a "collar" reinforcement to the bottom, and it was reinstalled near the pool and the waterslide, inside the fenced area;

3. Rocket Park Restrooms Tile Mural 1% for Art Project – local artist Vinje Lawson and Orchard Avenue Elementary fifth grade students are working on a tile mural, to be completed for the park dedication May 11;
4. City Cemetery 1% for Art Project – the building will be completed soon but the original location for art that the Commission has been discussing has changed; as discussed at the last meeting there may be the potential to purchase an Art on the Corner piece (?);
5. Canyon View Park – local artist Nick Russotto is working with the Parks Dept. to paint the bottom of the sculpture “Grand Current” (purchased through the 1% program and installed last February) to stop the rust which is leaching off the piece; Nick is also still planning to cast his marble sculpture “Paternity” in bronze in the fall and donate it with a pedestal to the City for placement near the playground in Canyon View Park.

Commission members asked for clarification concerning their selection of art through the 1% for Art program and information about the pending 1% project at the cemetery in conjunction with the new building there. The Coordinator reported that she was told by the Parks and Recreation Director that this 1% project was now on hold – at first because the City Manager was considering spending the allocated funding on a different art project, and then subsequently that the Commission did not need to consider a 1% art purchase for this capital construction project.

Commission members expressed confusion as to why this project was being tabled since it has been under discussion for many months and was to be decided at this meeting, and the Coordinator did not have an answer. The consensus of the Commission was to proceed with selecting a work of art for the cemetery from the current Art on the Corner exhibit, since time is of the essence – the cemetery building is almost finished and the Art on the Corner sculptures will be removed May 8 – pending meeting with the Parks and Recreation Director for clarification about why the 1% process is being changed, contrary to the City Council Resolution which established the 1% program.

Discussion centered on three Art on the Corner pieces appropriate for the cemetery: “Garden Zen” by Jim Hutton (\$2,400); “Mesquite Lover’s Bench” by Ira Wiesenfeld (\$2,400), and “Now I Take Your Hand In” by Reven Swanson (\$4,000). The Coordinator reported that after the Commission’s last meeting she had discussed possible Art on the Corner sculptures with the Parks Superintendent, Forestry/Cemetery Supervisor, and the woman who works at the cemetery, and that they all mentioned the fact that benches are already plentiful at the cemetery. After further discussion a show of hands vote was taken: “Now I Take Your Hand In” – 6, and “Garden Zen” – 3. Jeanine Howe made a motion to approve this purchase, seconded by Jeanne Killgore. The consensus was to purchase “Now I Take Your Hand In” as the 1% for Art project at the cemetery, pending meeting with Rob Schoeber for clarification on the program.

The Coordinator distributed a list of upcoming cultural events and projects underwritten by Commission grants, and Commission members volunteered to attend the various events.

CITY HALL ART EXHIBIT: Lancer Livermont and Vera Mulder volunteered to assist with the installation of the next City Hall exhibit on April 1, and Mulder and Tanya Smith volunteered to help set up the April 2 First Friday reception for the artists. 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