



112 Second Street  
P.O. Box 366  
Langley, WA 98260  
(360) 221-4246

**City of Langley**  
**LANGLEY ARTS COMMISSION (LAC)**  
**MINUTES**  
**JULY 11, 2019**  
**LANGLEY CITY HALL**  
112 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Langley WA

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 9:34 AM. All LAC members were present, except Mary Ann Mansfield and Hank Nelson. Also attending: Peter Morton, City Council liaison; Langley Mayor Tim Callison.

**2. APPROVE AGENDA:**

Added to the agenda at Joann Quintana's request: reaching out/keeping in touch with the community's artists. Don Wodjenski motions and Keegan Harshman seconds approval of agenda; unanimously passed. LAC Chair Diane Divelbess recommended that everyone read Guiding Principles for Commissions and Boards.

**3. APPROVE MINUTES:**

Planning Assistant Jill Needham said she did not get the meeting minutes from June 13, 2019. These minutes will need to be approved at the next LAC meeting. Keegan Harshman made a motion and Ann Johnson seconded it, unanimously approved, to wait until the August meeting to approve the June meeting minutes.

**4. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**A. Open position on LAC – Diane Divelbess**

Diane Divelbess distributed the bylaws about term limits and vacancies on the LAC and reported that it's time for Hank Nelson to go off the LAC, as his term was completed in 2017. LAC needs to announce that a position is open.

Diane Divelbess reported that in 2017, LAC started on a cycle of two- and three-year terms. Hank Nelson served a full three-year term, then two additional years, so that position is up.

City Planner Brigid Reynolds has requested to know when each of the current LAC members began their terms so that an accurate list can be prepared. Diane Divelbess asked that each current board member report back at the next LAC meeting on when they began serving on LAC. Diane Divelbess reported that her position will be expiring and that she does not want to commit to another three-year term.

Discussion: Ann Johnson reported that she replaced former LAC board member Stacie Bergsma. Keegan Harshman replaced Callahan McVay and he believes that the first LAC meeting he attended was in November 2019. Don Wodjenski reported that he replaced Michelle La Rue in September or October of 2017.

A notice of the availability of a seat on LAC will be announced on the city website, and an announcement made at a city council meeting. With this committee, Mayor Callison believes that group dynamics are especially important. There are no residency requirements for the LAC and the mayor interviews applying candidates first. LAC then interviews them and makes a recommendation to the Mayor.

Don Wodjenki made a motion and Ann Johnson seconded it and it was unanimously approved to announce that a position is available on LAC, that LAC seeks one person to serve a three-year term, and LAC wants to fill the position by September.

It was decided that Don Wodjenski will make up a certificate recognizing Hank Nelson for his work on the LAC, to be presented to Hank Nelson by Mayor Callison.

## **B. LAC 6-Year Plan and 2020 Budget – Diane Divelbess**

Diane Divelbess reviewed the LAC six-year plan. She will do a rough draft of a 2020 budget and where changes might be made for an updated version. The goal is to participate in the upcoming city budget process.

## **C. Joint LAC-Parks Open Spaces (POS) Budget Proposal -- Joann Quintana**

Joann Quintana presented the idea of the LAC and the Parks and Open Space Commission (POS) coming together to prepare a joint budget proposal where city budget funding would be sought and used to retain a grants consultant. The grants consultant would help to identify possible sources of funding for LAC and POS projects, and potentially advise on the writing of grant applications. The goal would be to bring more funds into the city for the arts, and parks and open space, rather than relying only on city public funds.

Mayor Callison said that both boards must come together and prepare a workplan, and that the workplan must be approved by the city council and the projects must be placed in the city Capital Improvements Plan (CIP). The City's authority must also be obtained before any grants are applied for. The process

would be that each board meets to solidify its projects list. We notify City Council that funds are being jointly sought for retaining a grants consultant and here is the list of joint projects that we want the grants consultant to work on. Each project and grant application will be brought before the City Council for its approval.

It was agreed that the most logical project where the two boards can cooperate is on the planned Seawall Park upgrades. It was decided that LAC council liaison Peter Morton will prepare a “white paper” that roughly describes how this process of the two boards cooperating will work. He will prepare a draft, seek comment from Mayor Callison, then get it to Joann, as she sits on both LAC and POS.

## **II. REPORTS**

### **A. Clyde Alley Sculpture - Don Wodjenski**

Don Wodjenski reported that Bellingham sculptor Dwayne Kangus was arriving momentarily to install his loaned sculpture in Clyde Alley, and Don would be assisting him. Sculptor Sue Taves’ piece “Flight,” has been installed. Each piece needs a plaque. Don said he will check in with the city and Dwayne to ensure all paperwork is taken care of.

The dedication of the two new loaned sculptures will take place before the street dance, when the pieces will be unveiled.

Regarding the Sue Taves’ piece, Mayor Callison reported that he had asked Callahan McVay to remove his Facebook posting regarding Taves’ sculpture, which had invited and elicited several crude comments from community members about the sculpture. The Mayor said that his was not the way Langley treats its artists.

### **B. Certified Creative District Update – Mary Ann Mansfield**

Joann Quintana provided a brief report in Mary Ann Mansfield’s absence. The CCD work group continues to meet and is preparing to submit a Letter of Intent soon. The issue of whether the Fairgrounds will be included in the district still needs to be resolved with the Port of South Whidbey. Mayor Callison and Ann Johnson suggested that one option might be to include the Outcast Theater and Becka Bee’s Music, but not the entire Fairgrounds. Once the LOI is submitted, there is a 60-day window during which to submit Langley Creates’ formal application to the state.

### **C. Langley Arts Fund (LAF) and Wishing Whale – Frank Rose**

Frank Rose, head of the Langley Arts Fund, reported that LAF is already halfway through fundraising for the whale. LAF met with Orca Network/Whale Museum and received a unanimous endorsement of the project. The goal is for the unveiling of the sculpture to take place at April 2020 Welcome the Whales Day.

Frank Rose mentioned that the next phase of fundraising will be the public phase, seeking smaller contributions from community residents. LAF is setting up a website to make it easy for supporters to contribute to the whale.

#### **D. Sunday Funday – Keegan Harshman**

Keegan Harshman reported that Sunday Funday is moving ahead and the coming Sunday would be the fifth concert of the season, held on the grass next to City Hall. Diane Divelbess inquired concerning Keegan Harshman talking with Inge Morascini of the Chamber of Commerce, and others, regarding obtaining tourist dollars to support Sunday Funday. Keegan Harshman reported that he was pressed for time because of putting on Little Big Fest, a music festival he has organized that is in its second year, and that he would need to take up the conversations about obtaining tourist dollars once Little Big Fest is over.

#### **E. Reaching out to artists in the community – Joann Quintana (added to agenda)**

Joann Quintana said that she would like for LAC to figure out a way to do a better job keeping in touch with community artists. She pointed out that the RFPs that have been issued by LAC have not received much interest from artists, and that it seems to be a case of the artists not finding out about the RFPs, not a lack of interest.

Diane Divelbess pointed out that the Whidbey Island Arts Council (WIAC) is the big umbrella artists' organization on the island, and that effectively, LAC functions as the "South Whidbey Arts Council." She said that she does not want to see LAC duplicate what WIAC does, and perhaps the way to go would be to form closer ties to WIAC, perhaps even having WIAC represented on the LAC. Diane Divelbess also would like for there to be some funds in the LAC budget for marketing, which could help in spreading the word to local artists.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 AM.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the LAC will be Thursday, August 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM at Langley City Hall.

A special meeting of LAC will be held Thursday, July 25 at 9:30 at Langley City Hall to discuss a workplan for LAC and POS to work together.