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City of Langley
LANGLEY ARTS COMMISSION (LAC)

MINUTES

October 10, 2019

LANGLEY CITY HALL

112 2nd Street, Langley WA

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:35 AM. All LAC members were present, as well as City Council Liaison Peter Morton, Langley Mayor Tim Callison, and guest Frank Rose of the Langley Arts Fund. New LAC member Olena Hodges was recognized and welcomed.

Approve Agenda: Mary Ann Mansfield made a motion, it was seconded by Joann Quintana, and the meeting agenda was unanimously approved.

Approve Minutes: Keegan Harshman moved, Don Wodjenski seconded, and the meeting minutes for September 11, 2019 were unanimously approved with one correction: New LAC member Olena Hodges serves as Artistic Director at Island Shakespeare Festival, not Associate Artistic Director.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. LAC 6-Year Work Plan—Diane Divelbess

Diane reported on her presentation of the LAC Work Plan to the City Council. The Council had questions concerning maintenance of public artwork in the City. Diane pointed out that the LAC needs to develop a maintenance schedule for public art. Don Wodjenski said that it's not complicated, mostly dust and bird dung and waxing bronze. Don Wodjenski volunteered to develop a suggested maintenance schedule in time for the next LAC meeting in November; and a motion was unanimously passed to this effect, with Joann Quintana making the motion and Ann Johnson seconding.

Mayor Callison complimented LAC Chair Diane Divelbess for her excellent presentation to the City Council.

b. Biannual Whidbey Arts Forum—Diane Divelbess

A date of November 5 was decided upon for the Fall Whidbey Arts Forum, and Verna Everitt volunteered space at WICA's Zech Hall for the Forum. A work group

consisting of Joann Quintana, Mary Ann Mansfield and Olena Hodges are working to plan and put on the Arts Forum. The Forum will address the issue of climate change and artists, as well as a later exhibition of local artists' work in April 2020 at WICA. The April show will coincide with Welcome the Whales Day, the unveiling of the Wishing Whale, and the 50th anniversary of Earth Day.

c. Langley Walking Tour Guide—Joann Quintana

Joann Quintana reported on the Langley Chamber of Commerce's work-in-progress to include some of Don Wodjenski's local artist profiles in an upcoming Langley guide publication, and the effort to partner with the Chamber to include art, versus having separate guides and publications. Don Wodjenski said that he needs to get with Brigid Reynolds and make sure that the art inventory he created is up-to-date.

d. Art Wraparound Sponsorship – Ann Johnson

Ann Johnson said there were no sponsors for the wraparounds and no artists responded to the RFP to create vinyl wraparounds for utility boxes. There is no longer any LAC money for this. It was pointed out that Peter Morton is willing to fund Star Wars art on a utility box and Deborah Waterman has offered to fund one as well. The question was asked whether the Langley Arts Fund could get involved in funding the boxes. Joann Quintana spoke in favor of painting the boxes versus vinyl because of the high cost of the vinyl wrap and the level of expertise required of artists to create a wrap versus applying paint to a box. Ann pointed out that she will need to ask Whidbey Tel if paint is okay. There's also a need to find out who and how St. Hubert's Church managed to paint its utility box.

e. LAC Social Media Presence—Keegan Harshman

Keegan Harshman reported that the LAC Facebook page is up and running and that posts are being put up. He urged all LAC members to like the page and ask FB friends to like the page.

f. "Langley Creates" Certified Creative District—Mary Ann Mansfield

Mary Ann Mansfield, Chair of the Work Group preparing the application for a state Certified Creative District (CCD) in Langley, reported the following: The group is nearing completion of the application, after many meetings and work sessions. The required Letter of Interest has been prepared and will be submitted to the state on October 31 and the formal application being filled out now will be submitted shortly after. The director of the CCD program, Annette Roth, will be making her final visit to Langley on November 6. The Langley creative district will be named and branded as "Langley Creates." It will stretch from the Fairgrounds, to the South Whidbey Community Center, include WICA and the surrounding performing arts venues and include all of downtown Langley. WICA will act as the administrator of Langley Creates. Langley Creates already has received a \$4,000 grant from the Goosefoot Community Fund to help with startup costs. The state provides a \$5,000 grant upon certification.

Mayor Callison commented that in the future he looks forward to seeing the Main Street Association become involved in events and promotions that include all of the Creative District, not just the downtown.

The Mayor also pointed out that Mystery Weekend 2020 (February 22-23) has a Mardi Gras theme, and he would like to see a marching band organized (by Keegan Harshman).

g. Langley Arts Fund, Update on Wishing Whale—Frank Rose

Frank Rose reported that LAF is in the final stages of its quiet fundraising campaign, with funds raised of more than \$80,000. LAF is working hard to pull together the package of information needed for the permit approvals. LAF is on schedule, and will enter the public fundraising phase on November 2. Don Wodjenski has designed and created Wishing Whale collection jars for businesses and LAF will be having a name-the-whale contest too. The LAF website is nearing completion and people will be able to contribute online.

Joann Quintana spoke about presentations she made to the Main Street Association and the Chamber about the Wishing Whale. Peter Morton provided an update on the engineering firm working on the whale sculpture and that the engineers are able to meet the deadlines.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Approve changes in LAC positions—Diane Divelbess

LAC Chair Diane Divelbess reported that it was her last meeting, that she was resigning from the LAC, and that she favored Joann Quintana succeeding her as chair. Don Wodjenski nominated Joann Quintana as the new chair, Keegan Harshman seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

A motion was unanimously passed to make Olena Hodges the new secretary, with Mary Ann Mansfield taking the meeting minutes at the November LAC meeting in order to ease Olena Hodges into the secretary role.

b. Fill LAC vacancy—Diane Divelbess

A motion was made by Joann Quintana, seconded by Don Wodjenski, and unanimously approved to welcome Verna Everitt to the LAC.

The Mayor pointed out that Verna Everitt's appointment is subject to City Council approval, but that the LAC Chair serves at the discretion of the Mayor.

The Mayor said that he would be interviewing Jesse Levesque soon. He recommended, and the board agreed, to letting her go through the process, appoint her as an alternate for the time being, and have her in the wings.

The Mayor reported that he has a contact in the ferry community, and that ideas are being sought for a spot for a smaller, child-sized pair of "wings" to be located in Langley.

Recognition for retiring chair—Joann Quintana, Don Wodjenski

Diane Divelbess was recognized for her service to the Langley Arts Commission. Joann Quintana gave a short speech and Don Wodjenski presented Diane Divelbess with a commemorative plaque.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 AM.

The next meeting of the Langley Arts Commission is Thursday November 14, 2019, 9:30 AM at Langley City Hall.