



Langley Arts Commission Minutes
Thursday May 10, 2018 - 9:30 AM
Langley City Hall

Attendance

Diane Divelbess (Chair), Joann Quintana (Secretary), Hank Nelson, Ann Johnson, Mary Ann Mansfield, Brigid Reynolds (City Planning Director), Peter Morton (City Council Liaison)

Regrets – Callahan McVay, Don Wodjenski

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Diane Divelbess at 9:32 AM.

Statement of Possible Conflict of Interest

Diane Divelbess read from the City of Langley's "Guiding Principles for Committees and Boards."

Introduction of Guests

Guest present: Frank Rose, Chair, Langley Public Arts Consortium

Approval of Agenda

A motion was unanimously passed to approve the meeting's agenda with one amendment: In II. Reports, letter c. was added for Joann Quintana to give a report concerning Seawall Park.

Approval of Minutes of April 12, 2018

A motion was unanimously passed to approve the April 12, 2018 meeting minutes with no amendments.

I. DISCUSSION

a. Responses to RFP for 2nd Street Sculpture Rotation, 2018-2020 – Brigid Reynolds

June 1st is the deadline. Brigid Reynolds reported no inquiries yet, but she said it is not uncommon for responding artists to wait until the last minute. She will place an ad on drewslist to help generate more interest. Diane favors moving to a point system exclusively and making a slight readjustment on the weighting of two selection criteria, with Island County Preference being reduced from 10 to 5 points and Design and Construction being increased from 20 to 25 points."

A sculptor would need to have a piece almost completed, given the short timeframe. The assumption is that artists are working on pieces year-round.

a.1 Evaluation process revised – Diane Divelbess

Diane Divelbess pointed out that in the future she favors changes to the RFP evaluation process for artworks submitted. She asked that a note be made to work on revising the evaluation process. Diane favors moving to a percentage system and a slight rearrangement in the weighting of the selection criteria, with Island County Preference being reduced from 10 to 5 percent, and Design and Construction increased from 20 to 25 percent.

a.2 On-site visits – Frank Rose

Frank Rose pointed out that in the past LAC members visited artists' studios in order to see the works being evaluated for public display. Diane Divelbess suggested that LAC make such visits to evaluate works that are submitted. She pointed out that in the past the LAC had received a photograph of a piece that looked grand in the photo, but in an outdoor setting, did not have enough presence. They would not have known this without seeing the work first-hand. It was suggested that we might want to ask for the photo to be taken outdoors. Frank Rose pointed out that if we receive submittals from out-of-state artists, a site visit would be unlikely. Ann Johnson pointed out that theaters ask for videos. Mary Ann Mansfield suggested we specify that the photo submitted should be "current."

a.3 Presentation materials for LAC and City Council – Diane Divelbess

Frank Rose pointed out that LAC will need presentation materials for the City Council to review the works. He suggested we ask Don Wodjenski to photograph the works. Don was not present and no decision was made.

b. Update on location for new sculpture pedestal – Don Wodjenski , Brigid Reynolds

At the last meeting, Joann Quintana had suggested placing the 6th sculpture pedestal in front of the new community center on school district property because it ties in with that area being an art zone in the future. It was brought up that when the outdoor sculpture program was conceived, discussion had centered around sculptures enhancing downtown Langley. A discussion was held concerning finding a location near Langley Village where Mona's Chocolates is located. Frank suggested that he thought there was some publicly owned land there since Langley Village itself is on private property, and the owners don't want added liability. Various locations were discussed. It was pointed out that we have a year to decide and we don't have to give up on the school district property site. Ann Johnson spoke to the community center's Ann LaVasser. It is the community center's long-term intention to put public art there. Their long-term vision is to create a really beautiful walking campus. There may be an opportunity for a partnership in the future. Diane pointed out that art in the campus' inner courtyards would be the school district's responsibility, not LAC's. It was pointed out that as the city

works to create more of a bridge between downtown and the community center, it will make sense to extend sculpture art beyond downtown.

Joann Quintana reported on a conversation she had with the Langley Chamber's Inge Morascini. Joann's idea is to create bluff-top linear garden plantings that would begin across from the Langley Library and extend to WICA. The plantings would be relatively inexpensive and help to better connect the two areas. Inge Morascini reacted favorably to this idea as a way to make a stronger connection between downtown and the WICA and community center areas without having to spend a lot of money.

All agreed connecting the WICA/community center area to downtown is an important goal. Diane Divelbess spoke in favor of LAC cooperating more with the community center. Frank Rose said this fits with the LAC's economic development goal and the city's future plans for the area.

Brigid Reynolds pointed out that the public art does not have to be located in the downtown core. Brigid said that with art installations, we are trying to create places that draw people. Having something visual draws people and we are trying to encourage people to get out beyond and look at what else is around town. Diane Divelbess pointed out that this fits with the goal of encouraging visitors to park in areas beyond First and Second Streets.

Peter Morton asked if we could set a theme for the sculpture piece that would tie to its location. Diane Divelbess pointed out that setting a theme would make more sense if the sculpture piece was being commissioned, versus on-loan. Peter Morton pointed out that perhaps there's a philanthropist who might want to support something that would be permanent. Mary Ann Mansfield spoke in favor of a kinetic piece at that location. Ann Johnson has not spoken to the school board yet, but will do so when we have something more definitive.

Peter Morton suggested that with the new WICA director coming on board, now would be a good time to reach out and start a conversation with WICA about steps to take to do a better job connecting WICA and the community center with downtown, and also to work together cooperatively on art-related issues. Diane Divelbess with Joann Quintana will work to hold such a meeting.

Joann Quintana asked about the status of creating an art district and what we can do to move the idea forward, such as holding a meeting/summit. Brigid Reynolds said that she has put the idea to the area's property owners, had preliminary discussions, and that it's in the city's Comprehensive Plan. Peter Morton said that it's logical for the LAC to be the body to convene a summit meeting regarding the art district and to reach out to the stakeholders. Also that the timing is good with a new WICA executive director coming on board.

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed to create a task force of Ann Johnson and Mary Ann Mansfield to sketch out and plan a summit meeting of stakeholders to begin a collaborative process to create an arts and recreation district, as called for in the city's Comprehensive Plan.

Frank Rose said that the city should be recognizing WICA's departing executive director, Stacie Burgua, for her service. Peter said that he will get that ball rolling.

c. Update on art wrap-around utility boxes – Ann Johnson

Questions remained concerning the price and how to proceed with Whidbey Tel, and whether we should submit an application for a grant or would Whidbey Tel sponsor the wraparounds outright. Diane Divelbess asked what about issuing an RFP for one box while trying to find a sponsor so people could see what the wraparounds look like, thereby generating interest in doing more.

Peter Morton said that he would match Deborah Waterman in her contribution. Ann Johnson said that she had not yet met with Brigid Reynolds. Next steps, said Ann, would be chatting with Sound Business to get a better idea of costs and requirements and figuring out which box would be the "proof of concept" box. At that point, with the generosity of Peter and Deborah, we could see if there's still a funding gap. Mary Ann Mansfield said that Whidbey Tel gets many designs that are submitted for the cover of the phone book, and that maybe we could use one of these? Diane Divelbess said that a three-dimensional wraparound probably requires a different approach. Frank Rose said that it might be possible though. The box nearest Mona's Chocolates would probably be the best initial location, said Frank, because it has the most exposure. Once Brigid Reynolds and Ann Johnson meet, we would be ready to go ahead with an RFP. Brigid and Ann will meet to figure out the logistics and next steps. Diane advised that Whidbey Tel be approached to go beyond their usual \$500 grant since they have a vested interest in their own boxes looking good. The price per box may vary because they are different sizes. But we will try to get an actual per-box price and move forward then. All agreed that we are a yes on pursuing the Mona's box location.

II. REPORTS

a. LPAC – Frank Rose

Frank Rose reported that the newly formed Langley Public Arts Consortium (LPAC) is hoping to hold future fundraising events to raise money for the arts, with initial funds potentially going toward art in a refurbished Seawall Park. Frank said the hope is to have Seawall Park preliminary drawings from Jay Davenny that could be used at such an event (or events). LPAC is working to spread the word about its existence and recently made a presentation to the Langley Main Street Association.

The question was raised whether we need to make a presentation about LPAC to the Langley City Council. Either Peter Morton or Brigid Reynolds can bring it up with Mayor Callison. It was also pointed out that South Whidbey Parks and Recreation and the

Fairgrounds/Port of South Whidbey, should be part of/aware of LPAC. Mary Ann Mansfield said that she will attend a Port of South Whidbey meeting to start getting an LAC face in front of them.

b. Arts walking tour brochure and Langley Chamber of Commerce – Joann Quintana

Joann Quintana reported that she met with Chamber director Inge Morascini and passed on her research, ideas and mock-up of an arts walking tour brochure to Inge. Joann reported that Inge likes the idea and that they are moving toward doing things online, versus printed. Inge said that when LAC completes the Langley art inventory, provide all such information, along with photographs, to the Chamber, and the Chamber will get the information up on its website. Inge is very supportive of “Langley as an art town,” and she would like for the Chamber to focus more on promoting Langley art and Langley artists. It’s important for LAC to keep Inge in the information loop. Joann will forward approved meeting minutes to Inge as a way to keep her informed of what LAC is up to.

c. Seawall Park update – Joann Quintana

The Seawall Park subcommittee met May 8 to review Jay Davenny’s preliminary ideas for a park improvements conceptual plan. The ideas were imaginative, creative and everyone at the meeting was favorably impressed and excited to see more.

d. SWHS mural project – Don Wodjenski

Don Wodjenski was out of town and unable to attend the meeting. Diane Divelbess reported that it’s too late this year for the high school students to create a mural as part of a school project. Joann Quintana reported that during her conversation with the Chamber’s Inge Morascini, Inge suggested a project to improve/beautify the sign in front of the community center would be a great addition to Langley. Joann and Inge had discussed that perhaps improving the community center sign could be a good mural project for high school students?

e. South Whidbey Community Center – Ann Johnson

Ann Johnson reported on all the great activities taking place at the community center. Kids art classes after school are there. Martial arts. A youth board is putting on an international food festival coming up Saturday May 19. There’s a project on kids finding their voice through the arts. There is now “Create Space,” for anyone who wants to go and create art. It is free, non-profit. There’s a family resource center. Historical center is coming soon. Also more food-related activities because there’s a kitchen. Congressman Rick Larsen came and toured the center, he visited all the different spaces and the Whidbey Children’s Theater was represented. Ann said it’s humming up there.

f. Cloudstone open house – Diane Divelbess

Diane Divelbess reported on the Cloudstone open house on April 21. Cloudstone is the home and studio and sculpture park created by local sculptor Hank Nelson, who’s also an LAC member. Hank and fellow local sculptor, Sue Taves, received awards from

Sculpture Northwest at the event. There were guided tours and food and the event was very well-attended. The Seattle Art Museum will be holding a private event for board and trustees at Cloudstone in June and so word about what Hank has created is going to be spreading far and wide.

NEW BUSINESS

a. “Recycled Art Festival”? – Diane Divelbess, Brigid Reynolds

b. Possible arts program for summer

Diane Divelbess received an article from Brigid Reynolds about an annual recycled art festival held in Langley Township, British Columbia, Canada. In the Langley, WA area there are youth crafts that use recycled materials and WICA has a show called C.R.A.P. (Creative Recycled Art Projects) in late fall too, using recycled items. Diane said that if we ever wanted to do a summer event, we could focus on recycled art for such an event. Kids and adults both might enjoy it. It would be more participatory. The parks department has a bunch of activities that encompass art. The difference would be that instead of just making something, there would be an opportunity to show off what kids and adults made in an art show. We could team up with South Whidbey Parks and Recreation. “Go pick up litter and make something beautiful from it,” said Ann Johnson. We could start kids early on this and work toward an art show.

For the Good of the Order

On June 9th at the Freeland Art Studios there will be an open studio tour. Several local sculptors work out of this location.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned 11:20 AM.

The next LAC meeting is Thursday, June 14 at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Joann Hamick Quintana, Secretary