



**Langley Arts Commission Minutes
Thursday June 14, 2018 – 9:30 AM
Langley City Hall**

Attendance

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

Regrets – Callahan McVay

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Diane Divelbess at 9:31 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

Guests present: Frank Rose, Chair, Langley Public Arts Consortium, Keegan Harshman, Langley business owner of Blue Sound Music.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was unanimously passed to approve the meeting's agenda with no changes.

Approval of Minutes of May 10, 2018

A motion was unanimously passed to approve the May 10, 2018 meeting minutes with one change: Gail Lavassar's name was corrected.

I. DISCUSSION

a. RFP Results, Second Street Sculpture – Brigid Reynolds

Brigid Reynolds shared copies of the artists' responses and photographs of the works submitted for consideration. Three artists responded: Dale W. Reiger with a steel and cast glass piece titled "Window"; Scott Alexander with a steel piece titled "Kraken"; Lin McJunkin with two pieces (can be treated as one piece) titled "Feather Fetish" and "Leaf Petroglyph." The pieces considered are to replace loaned sculptures on Second Street.

Board members discussed each piece. The discussion concerning Scott Alexander's piece revolved around its large size and ensuring a location of safety for both the sculpture and its admirers. The discussion concerning Lin McJunkin's works focused on a suitable location where both pieces could be displayed or two locations where the pieces could still be admired together.

Using the rating criteria that the board established, each piece was evaluated and scored. All three entries met the guidelines established. A motion was made and unanimously approved to accept all four pieces with the proviso that the board will make an effort to view the works in person, and that further work is needed concerning locations and fitting of the works on the pedestals. The board's recommendation will be forwarded to the Langley City Council. Peter Morton will inform the Council that the LAC recommendation is subject to members viewing the pieces in person. The Council's vote will be to either accept or reject the board's recommendation.

b. Utility Box Wraparounds – Diane Divelbess, Ann Johnson

Ann Johnson reported that she and Brigid Reynolds met to discuss the basics of what's needed to get art wraparounds on utility boxes in downtown. Ann obtained an estimate from Jacob Bloom (Sound Business Center, Freeland, WA) for printing and installing the wraparounds. Ann will also talk with Joe Menth of Fine Balance Imaging and Printing. Ann intends to take an informal survey of nearby downtown business owners to learn what design themes they would find most attractive.

Diane Divelbess spoke with Chris McKnight, who is in charge of marketing for Whidbey Tel. Whidbey Tel wants to see the art before agreeing to have it on their utility boxes. Diane reported that when the LAC is ready to consider and select the art for the boxes, we will invite Chris McKnight to attend that LAC meeting.

Ann Johnson said that she will now submit a request to Whidbey Tel (through their online process) for \$1,000 to fund the wraparound art. Though Whidbey Tel usually gives single grants of \$500, she is hopeful that because this benefits Whidbey Tel, the company will be willing to give more than \$500.

Joann suggested that if we're successful, we try to spread the idea by getting all the processes for the art wraparounds "standardized" (cost, design, fabrication). This would allow neighborhoods beyond downtown Langley to more easily get utility boxes in their neighborhoods wrapped in art.

c. "Summit Meeting, Arts Corridor" – Ann Johnson, Mary Ann Mansfield

Mary Ann Mansfield and Ann Johnson reported that they are making progress on the proposed summit meeting for a Langley Arts Corridor. Mary Ann and Ann met and made a comprehensive list of all the potential stakeholders. Mary Ann has talked with several of the potential stakeholders and they expressed enthusiasm for the idea. The plan is to talk to a few more stakeholders and then schedule a meeting. The meeting could be held at the Children's Theater. The meeting would focus on how to work together, what an Art District might look like and be like, how to attract visitors and the public to the district, wayfinding, parking, and cross-promotion with all entities.

Joann brought up the ideas of painting designs at intervals on the sidewalks in the art district to help brand the area; also, the linear garden idea to connect downtown with the proposed art district.

d. Introducing Verna Everitt, WICA and LAC – Diane Divelbess, Peter Morton

At Peter Morton's request, Diane Divelbess said that this item would be deferred because Verna Everitt will not assume her duties as WICA executive director until August.

II. REPORTS

a. Summer Whidbey Arts Forum – Diane Divelbess, Ann Johnson

Diane Diveless reported on conversations she had with WICA concerning holding the summer Whidbey Arts Forum. WICA charges a rental fee and space at WICA was filling up. Diane also talked with Ann Johnson about holding the forum at the Community Center. After discussion, it was concluded that it would be best to hold the forum at the Langley United Methodist Church. The overall cost will be less without the WICA rental fee.

For the program, Diane Diveless reported that she has invited Kay Parsons of the Whibey Arts Marketing Alliance, under the sponsorship of the Whidbey Island Arts Council. The Marketing Alliance leaders include Kay Parsons, Rob Schouten, Cary Jurriaans and Sherrye Wyatt, as well as the head of the Island County Tourism Committee. The mission of the Marketing Alliance is to market Whidbey Island artists in another way by marketing island artists, musicians and actors to the mainland.

Diane Diveless reported that Kay Parsons requested that the Arts Forum be scheduled for after the island Open Studios Tour in late August.

b. Seawall Park – Joann Quintana

Joann Quintana reported that progress continues to be made on the design to refurbish Seawall Park. Seawall Park Subcommittee chair Sharon Emerson, designer Jay Davenny and Joann met with Langley Public Works Director Stan Berryman at the park to review design concepts and ensure they do not conflict with public works needs. Joann reported that Jay Davenny is continuing to refine his designs based upon input he is receiving. The next Seawall Park Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 9, 2018 at 6:15 PM.

c. “Langley as an Arts Town” presentation to the Chamber of Commerce – Joann Quintana

Joann Quintana and Diane Diveless made a presentation at the Langley Chamber of Commerce June meeting. The presentation focused on the idea of Langley as a Great American Art Town. The presentation focused on the potential benefits of consciously working to make, identify and market Langley as an art town and working to get Langley on various national lists of American art towns. The remarks were well-received by Chamber members and Joann will be following up with Inge Morascini, the Chamber’s executive director.

d. LPAC update – Frank Rose

1. LangleyARTSFUND – establish as official title

Frank Rose reported that he would like to have the city organize its accounts so that contribution checks could be written to the “Langley ArtsFund.” He said he will be working with Robin Black to see how this might be done.

While continuing to focus on Seawall Park, LPAC will organize its projects according to whether they are in the foreground, the middle ground or the background.

Frank Rose brought up the meeting that LPAC representatives had with the Inn at Langley’s Pam Schell and chef Matt Costello concerning raising money for the arts, in particular for Seawall Park. Pam and Matt had encouraged events that involved the general public, perhaps held at Seawall Park itself.

Frank reported that LPAC wants to keep moving forward with its fundraising, especially funds that can be used for Seawall Park, with a \$50,000 goal. The date for LPAC’s first fundraiser is being delayed. Don Wodjenski and Burt Beusch are working on fundraiser concepts and dates for LPAC.

Burt and Becky Beusch are holding a fundraiser on July 7 for Hank Nelson and Cloudstone. LPAC will try to learn from this fundraiser what may work best for LPAC fundraising events.

2. LPAC Mission Statement – Joann Quintana

Joann distributed a revised one-pager about LPAC and Langley as a Great American Art Town. The one-pager was revised based on LPAC conversations and was handed out at the Chamber of Commerce presentation.

3. “SundaysFundays,” can LPAC help?

Brigid Reynolds reported that last year Keegan Harshman had set up a tent for Sunday concerts on the lawn located next to City Hall. The tent was left up during the summer. The Design Review Board became involved because the tent was considered ugly and not in keeping with the attractive street image desired. The city code says that a temporary structure needs a permit and can be used four times in a year, then must be taken down. Brigid Reynolds pointed out that there are many ways to create an attractive performance stage/tent/shelter at the location. Brigid Reynolds and Keegan Harshman reported that to accommodate the concerts this summer, Keegan will be using a smaller tent, putting it up, then taking it down after each performance. In the meantime, Don Wodjenski will help Keegan Harshman create a performance stage/tent/shelter that is more attractive.

e. Freeland Art Studios

Frank Rose reported there was good attendance at the open house for Freeland Art Studios, but said he was disappointed that artists from there did not submit works for the Second Street sculpture program. Joann suggested that in the future, LAC may want to do a mailing (emailing?) several months before the Second Street RFP is issued and target island sculptors to give artists more lead time.

III. NEW BUSINESS

a. Replacement/terms of service for LAC Commissioners

Diane Divelbess reported that LAC member Callahan McVay is unable to attend meetings because he lost his assistant. His good ideas are beneficial, but we don't benefit from them because he is absent and has had to be absent for months. A motion was unanimously passed to remove Callahan McVay from the LAC due to his lack of attendance, in accordance with LAC bylaws.

It was pointed out that Keegan Harshman is interested in serving on the LAC. The first step in the process is for there to be a vacancy and for those interested in the LAC to fill out an application.

b. Summer activities?

Diane Divelbess mentioned the new arts group on the island, Island Bohemians. She reported her conversation with Kim Tinuviel, local artist and Island Bohemian member, who said that they are looking for pop-up spaces. Diane pointed out that South Whidbey has vacant storefront commercial spaces, but no one seems to be doing pop-ups. Diane volunteered to talk with Gail Lavassar at the Community Center to see if there is flexible space there for pop-ups. The question was asked whether or not we should talk with realtors about pop-up space?

IV. FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

a. Whidbey Island Fair and other summer attractions – Diane Divelbess

The Whidbey Island Fair is July 19-22. On the 7th the fine art entries will be judged and Moe Jerome, at Dianne's invitation, will be judging the entries this year.

Art by Susan Jenson was selected for the Street Dance poster.

Mary Ann Mansfield brought up French street art and poster art on the sides of buildings. She would like for all of us to take photos of the blank sides of buildings in Langley that could benefit from billboard/poster art.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12 noon.

The next LAC meeting is Thursday, July 12 at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joann Hamick Quintana, Secretary