



**Langley Arts Commission Minutes  
Thursday July 12, 2018 – 9:30 AM  
Langley City Hall**

**Attendance**

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

**Introduction of Guests**

Inge Morascini, Executive Director, Langley Chamber of Commerce; Frank Rose, Chair, Langley Public Arts Consortium (LPAC); Robin Black, member, LPAC.

**Call to Order**

Calling of the meeting to order was delayed due to lack of a quorum. Guest presentations were heard until Mary Ann Mansfield's arrival, when the meeting was called to order by Diane Divelbess at 10:30 AM.

**Statement of Possible Conflict of Interest**

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

**Approval of Agenda**

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

**Approval of Minutes of June 14, 2018**

Minutes from the June 14 meeting were not available and

**I. DISCUSSION:**

**a. Process for depositing donor funds raised for LAC art projects - Robin Black**

LPAC member and guest Robin Black presented information concerning the administrative process for donations to fund the arts in the City of Langley. A pledge form is posted on the city's website. A donation check must be made out to the City of Langley. If it says "art" on the check, then the donation amount will be placed in the city's dedicated arts account and the funds made available only for art-related items.

LPAC can raise money for particular projects. Brigid Reynolds pointed out that if a project concerns city property, then the city, via the City Council, would have a say-so.

Robin Black pointed out that there is no advantage to administratively setting up a separate fund. This would require an ordinance, a budget amendment and an auditing of the account.

A question was asked concerning where the money went that the city earned when the Sue Taves sculpture was sold, and whether the funds went into the arts account. Brigid Reynolds volunteered to discuss with City Clerk-Treasurer Debbie Mahler how the city dealt at that time with the \$1,300 from the sculpture sale. Brigid Reynolds suggested that LAC/LPAC assign someone to work with Debbie Mahler to ensure that funds are going in and out of the arts account as desired, since Debbie Mahler has a lot on her plate.

According to Peter Morton, contributions to cities are tax deductible, even though a city is not a 501(c)(3). (Contributions to federal, state and local governments are tax deductible, so long as the contribution is solely for a public purpose.)

It was pointed out that LPAC is starting to look and feel like a foundation. In seeking grants, it was discussed that it might make sense to team up with the Whidbey Island Arts Council (WIAC), because WIAC has a long track record and that is something grantors look for. However, it was pointed out that WIAC would charge a fee for grant administration, and that would likely need to be disclosed when seeking a grant.

**b. Fundraising: the RFP for "Wraparound Project" – Ann Johnson**

Ann Johnson, the LAC member spearheading this project, was absent. Diane Divelbess reported that Ann sent an email regarding costs and outlining the need to put out an RFP to artists interested in having their art on the utility boxes.

**c. Langley as an "Arts Town" – Inge Morascini, Executive Director, Langley Chamber of Commerce**

Inge Morascini reported that she has located several potential grant programs that fund arts-related projects and programs. In addition, Langley could seek 2% tourism fund monies for arts-related events and programs. However, the deadline for submitting proposals for tourism dollars is August 15. To apply for tourism dollars, we would need to move quickly to formulate and document the project and how we would partner.

In regard to being an "arts town," there is no "official" designation. What we can do, however, is start doing things that identify Langley as an arts town, creating a more concerted, louder effort. Ideas presented by Inge Morascini to help accomplish this:

First idea: Hold a public arts competition, once or twice a year. It could be a competition in the visual realm, or could include performance art too. Examples: cows in San Francisco and pigs in Seattle. Different art groups decorated them. In Langley, we might want to encourage the use of found materials and objects. A call-to-artists could go out strictly on Whidbey, and beyond. The pieces could be displayed all over town, judged, and a winner named.

A second form of an arts competition would be more conceptual. Let's say we chose the concept of freedom. We would ask artists to interpret this concept, and again, they might use found objects. The art would be on display for a certain period of time, and the Chamber could publicize this to encourage visitors. Art could be displayed in downtown businesses. The Chamber would be responsible for the marketing element, while the LAC would do the call-to-artists, the judging and display of the art. We would need to decide what incentive artists have to submit, such as a stipend.

The application would have a proposed budget and explain how the CofC and LAC would cooperate.

This kind of competition also would lend itself to incorporating others, such as writers, using the same concept. The idea is to get everyone moving in the same direction on something, so it helps “brand” the event and position Langley as an arts town.

Second idea: The second opportunity described by Inge Morascini related to developing a makers and growers festival, working with LAC and the group Whidbey Island Grown (WIG) on the event. Such a festival could include artists, craftsmen, food growers and artisan food creators. The impetus for this was Choochokum. The hipster market is very interested in this type of tourism. We would look to attract a different kind of visitor than those who attend the Whidbey Island Fair. The Chamber would provide the overall structure and marketing of the event, WIG would provide the growers, LAC would provide the artists and artisans.

Third idea: Inge Morascini also mentioned tying into the winter Victoria Clipper visits by developing a theme that we can tie art into. The Chamber has data regarding where people are coming from. The idea would be to expand the audience even further during this time period. We could coordinate so that artistic events, performances, etc. are happening during this period and by adopting an art-oriented theme that all businesses in town could embrace and be part of. The holiday deck-the-doors is wonderful and should continue, but we could go beyond that. A discussion was held concerning whether or not to pursue grants this year in cooperation with the Chamber.

Motion: A motion was unanimously passed to work cooperatively with the Chamber to plan and obtain funding for events that promote Langley as an arts town. Don Wodjenski and Mary Ann Mansfield from LAC and Frank Rose from LPAC will work with the Chamber on the planning.

#### **d. Biannual Whidbey Arts Forum, Thursday September 13, 2018 – Diane Divelbess**

In LAC’s June meeting, Diane Divelbess reported that she had invited Kay Parsons of the Whibey Arts Marketing Alliance, under the sponsorship of the Whidbey Island Arts Council. 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 Divelbess also reported that Kay Parsons requested that the Arts Forum be scheduled for after the island Open Studios Tour in late August.

The date chosen for the Biannual Arts Forum is Thursday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. (The 12<sup>th</sup> is the day of the Langley Community Feast.) The Arts Forum will be held at the United Methodist Church’s Fellowship Hall. Either LAC and LPAC members will chip in to bring snacks and drinks to the forum, or there may be money available from the mayor’s kitty to cover refreshment costs. (NOTE: Frank Rose asked the mayor, who said there is money from the mayor’s kitty to cover refreshments for the Arts Forum.)

## **II. REPORTS:**

### **a. Second Street Sculptures - Diane Divelbess, Frank Rose**

Diane Divelbess reported that the City Council approved the three sculptures that LAC selected. Frank Rose reported that artist Lin McJunkin withdrew one of the two pieces selected because it wasn’t clear where and how her second piece would be displayed. On Friday July 13<sup>th</sup>, the old pieces will be taken down, and new pieces put into place. In regard to artists receiving stipends,

Brigid Reynolds says that the only way the city can pay the artists is if they fill out and file with the city a contractor's license. It appears that there is a fee for such a license.

**b. Seawall Park Committee – Joann Quintana**

Joann Quintana reported that designer Jay Davenny is progressing on the design for improvements to Seawall Park. The Seawall Park subcommittee met on July 9 to review Jay Davenny's work. The next steps are: Finalize the plan and the drawings. Prepare a presentation that explains the plan. Deliver this presentation to the Parks & Open Space Commission and make any needed adjustments. Hold a public meeting in September to present the proposed plan to the public.

**c. LPAC Fundraising Events/Dates – Frank Rose, Don Wodjenski**

LPAC's Frank Rose reported that LPAC is looking toward holding a public fundraising event at the park in September and having the plans available for people to view. Brigid Reynolds said that it's important to make clear that the plans are preliminary and not yet approved by the city. The tentative date for the event is September 29. LPAC is also looking to hold a by-invitation fundraising event on October 14. Both of these events are for the purpose of raising funds for Seawall Park improvements.

**III. NEW BUSINESS:**

**a. LAC Open Seat – Diane Divelbess, Brigid Reynolds**

The Langley Arts Commission has an open seat. The term of service for the person selected for this seat is until August, 2021.

**IV. For the Good of the Order:**

**a. Whidbey Island Fair, Th-S July 19-22, 2018 – Diane Divelbess**

Diane Divelbess reported on the upcoming Whidbey Island Fair and the excellent artwork that will be on display and for sale there at the historic Pole Building.

**b. Sculpture Gardens – Diane Divelbess**

Diane Divelbess reported that Rob Schouten Gallery has obtained the approvals to move forward on creating an outdoor sculpture garden in the courtyard next to the gallery in Langley. The Rob Schouten Gallery had had several outdoor sculptures at its former location at Greenbank Farm. Kelly Tormey, Executive Assistant Manager of Greenbank Farm, liked having sculpture at the farm and would like to discuss having a revolving/rotating sculpture program at the farm.

**Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:33 AM.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Joann Hamick Quintana, Secretary