



**Langley Arts Commission Minutes
Thursday September 13, 2018
Langley City Hall**

Attendance

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

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 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

The meeting agenda was approved with one change: Under Reports, add g. Update concerning open seat on the LAC.

Approval of Minutes of August 9, 2018

Diane Divelbess asked for one change in the August meeting minutes: Change the wording about the Wishing Whale from "upwards of \$50,000" to "would cost \$50,000." The minutes were unanimously approved with the amendment.

I. DISCUSSION:

a. Set-up, responsibilities, agenda for Whidbey Arts Forum this evening – Diane Divelbess

Diane discussed the arrangements for the evening Whidbey Arts Forum at the Langley Methodist Church, and asked for help from LAC members for setting up and cleaning up after the presentation.

b. LAC 6-year Work Plan and 2019 Budget requests – Diane Divelbess, Brigid Reynolds, Frank Rose

Brigid Reynolds described the city budget process and development of the 2019 budget, for which work is beginning with the first workshop tonight. It will begin with general, high-level items and progressively become more detailed. By mid- to late October, there will be more detail. There are deadlines the city council must meet regarding the budget.

Brigid clarified that the money that the Langley Public Arts Consortium (LPAC) has privately raised still must be identified in the budget and a description of how it will be used. Regardless of the source of money, items must be in the budget before the money can be spent. Items must come before the city council and the council informed that the item is in the LAC budget, and that private LPAC funds are the source of the funding.

Diane Divelbess sought clarity on when to issue the RFP and how to seek funds and city council approval for the utility box wraparounds. The utility box wraps are not in the 2018 LAC budget. It was decided that the LAC will go before the city council to seek approval for the wraparounds and for issuing an RFP in 2018, and ask that the utility box wraparounds be in the 2019 LAC budget. Diane asked Ann Johnson to make the presentation and request concerning the wraparounds to the city council.

Peter Morton asked about the LAC 2019 budget, wanting to know what are must-haves and what are lower priority items. Diane Divelbess said that priority items are the temporary sculpture replacement, the bi-annual Arts Forum, the utility box wraparounds and the “Wishing Whale.”

Diane Divelbess said that two things need to come before the council. First, the first utility box wraparound in front of Sweet Mona’s. The other concept we haven’t presented to council is the Wishing Whale. Diane pointed out that several LAC members have discussed the Wishing Whale with the mayor and others and so far, there is enthusiasm and great interest in it. Peter Morton asked if it is proposed for 2019 or 2020. Diane Divelbess said that she envisions it as an LPAC-led project and that we would want to use the \$600 pedestal, because we already have a \$600 pedestal approved in the 2018 budget. She asked, can we reapply to a different use? Brigid Reynolds said that in terms of the budget, the money does not automatically roll over, but that we can say that these funds weren’t spent in 2018, so we want them kept for art in 2019. Peter Morton said that a budget is a tool, not a master, to apply discipline to how you spend money. If LAC were to say that it’s not spending 600 dollars, it’s an adjustment to the budget. For the 2019 budget, Peter Morton said LAC should alert the council that LAC chooses not to use the \$600 for a pedestal in 2018 because there’s an emergent opportunity for an entry sculpture to Seawall Park, called Wishing Whale, to be reflected in the 2019 budget.

Don Wodjenski suggested that LAC have a budget work session. Part of the focus would be to figure out what portion of the budget would come from LPAC funds.

Peter Morton suggested that a simple power point style presentation about the wraparounds be created and presented to the city council. Ann Johnson would be the presenter. LAC would request approval but point out that the money would come from LPAC-raised money, not the city. Peter Morton also pointed out that if we propose a utility box wraparound near WICA and the theme is science fiction, he will personally underwrite the cost of it.

II. REPORTS:

a. Follow-up conversation with Inge Morascini, Executive Director, Langley Chamber of Commerce – Don Wodjenski

Don reported that in the last conversation with Inge, she was going to put together something. Basis of the conversation is promoting Langley as an art town. Don and she talked about all the artistic things that are out there to promote.

b. Results of Seawall Park Public Meeting, September 5, 2018 – Joann Quintana

Joann Quintana reported on the results of the September 5, 2018 Seawall Park Public Meeting. The public meeting had medium attendance and went well. Most attendees approved of the conceptual plans for improving the park. Changes/additions/subtractions requested included adding a public restroom, adding plant irrigation, and making the promenade more pervious.

Joann also reported that the Parks and Open Space Commission at its meeting September 12, 2018, decided that the Seawall Park Subcommittee's work was complete and that the next steps concerning Seawall Park improvements would be the responsibility of POS. Joann Quintana will serve as the POS point person for Seawall Park. Joann reported that volunteer Chris Salomone is working with POS on the issue of improved access to the park. Next steps include developing a more detailed budget for the improvements called for in Jay Davenny's plan and a realistic timeline.

c. LPAC Update – Frank Rose

Frank Rose did not attend the meeting due to illness.

d. September 29, 2018 Seawall Park Public Luau – Don Wodjenski

Don reported on the luau event coming up. All elements are in place for the 29th, with the time having been changed to 1 to 3 pm. Don needs to recruit helpers for the new time. Burt found a barbecue person. Work is still underway on logistics. Don asked all LAC members to get the word out about the event.

e. October 14, 2018 Seawall Park Invitational Gathering - Diane Divelbess

Diane reported that she is working on the invitational gathering on Oct 14 and putting together a guest list. Diane asked for Peter Morton's input on the guest list.

f. "Wishing Whale" update – Joann Quintana

There was discussion of the Wishing Whale sculpture and it was decided that it is part of LPAC, not part of the Seawall Park Committee's work. But because it is in a city park (Whale Bell Park), Parks & Open Space (POS) will need to be in the loop. The whale sculpture should first be discussed at POS before presenting it to the city council. The next POS meeting is Wednesday October 10.

The Wishing Whale would be a bank and the money raised would go toward Seawall Park improvements and maintenance.

Diane Divelbess reported that Frank Rose has been contacting artists who work in concrete to learn about possibly fabricating the whale from concrete, since bronze is so expensive.

Diane Divelbess said that she wants to present the idea of the Wishing Whale at the private Seawall Park fundraiser she's holding at her house on October 14. Brigid Reynolds said there is nothing wrong with discussing such an idea at this event.

Brigid asked for greater clarity between LAC and LPAC. Ideally, the meeting minutes from LPAC meetings should go to LAC.

A motion was passed for both the utility box wraparounds and the Wishing Whale to be presented to the city council.

Since POS is not meeting till October 10, the presentation to the city council would be at the council's Monday, October 15 meeting.

g. Update concerning open seat on the LAC

Diane reported that she conducted a long interview with Christine Kitchens. Christine was

unable to be interviewed by the mayor because she was sick. She will contact the mayor for an interview when she's well.

Diane interviewed Keegan Harshman as well. Keegan is an eager young man, businessman, represent performing artists, sound tech, and is a product of Whidbey. Christine is a graphic designer. She lives in Freeland. She is a former member and chair of the Pierce County Arts Commission, and has worked on projects with the Tacoma Chamber of Commerce.

Diane said that she told both candidates that there are two candidates, and if they aren't selected, LAC keeps their file for future openings.

The mayor has spoken with Keegan Harshman. The committee does not yet have a recommendation because we haven't met Christine.

The LAC needs to interview the two candidates and then make a recommendation to the mayor. Or we can tell the mayor that we approve of both.

It was decided that at the next LAC meeting, both candidates will be interviewed and LAC then will make its recommendation to the mayor.

Peter Morton asked if LAC has a list of prospects. He asked that WICA's new executive director Verna Everitt be placed on the list of future LAC prospective members.

III. NEW BUSINESS

a. Public display of art at South Whidbey Community Center – Ann Johnson, Mary Ann Mansfield

Ann Johnson reported that the community center is looking at having art at the Community Center. Jesse is the person at the community center who has background in public art and will be the go-to person. Gail LaVasser cannot come to the Whidbey Art Forum, but she hopes Jesse will be able to come. One place for the display of public art is the inner courtyard at the former middle school. Ann Johnson says that it looks like they're developing a plan.

For the Good of the Order.

Diane Divelbess reminded people to come to the Arts Forum.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 AM.

The next LAC meeting is Thursday, October 11, 2018 at 9:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Joann Hamick Quintana, Secretary