



**Langley Arts Commission
March 9, 2017 Minutes
Langley City Hall
9:15 AM**

Attendance: Diane Divelbess, Michele LaRue, Callahan McVay, Jeannie Miller, Hank Nelson, Frank Rose; Brigid Reynolds, City Planner.

Absent: Stacie Burgua; Rene Neff, Council representative.

Guests: Ann Johnson, Managing Director for Children's Theater; Roxanne Taylor, Fairgrounds Manager for Port of South Whidbey; Joann Quintana, Seawall Park committee.

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Frank Rose at 9:15 AM.

Minutes were read and amended as follows:

under 2. Reports, a. to change "Arts Forum" to "Whidbey Arts Forum." It was moved (Jeannie Miller) and seconded (Michele LaRue) that the Minutes be approved as amended. Motion passed.

1. Discussion:

- a. Sculpture Northwest Bus Tour on Saturday April 22, 2017 - Frank Rose distributed flyers describing the tour and said the plan is for two buses to leave early AM from Bellingham and, after several pick-up stops along the way, to arrive at the Freeland Sculpture Studios mid-morning. In addition to visiting the sculptor's studios, the visitors will view the opening of their Outdoor Sculpture Garden. In Langley, visitors will attend a brief awards ceremony for sculptor Georgia Gerber and then be guided by Michele LaRue on a Walking Tour of Langley public art. After lunch in Langley the visitors will be driven to Cloudstone, Hank Nelson's large outdoor sculpture park, workshop and gallery.
- b. Possible City funding for an "innovative" bench - Brigid Reynolds said there may be "tourist dollars" available for a bench in Seawall Park. This came about because of an email which had circulated which showed examples of very creative benches from around the world, and Mayor Tim Callison had made the statement that he thought money for such a bench might be found.
- c. Frank Rose reported that Pam Schell is now not interested in funding a bench, but more interested in sponsoring possibly three sculpture pedestals - two on city property in Clyde Alley and one on her property adjacent to Clyde Alley. Frank said that Stan Berryman and the city could possibly build the pedestals, just like they built the pedestal for the Post Office sculpture site. Frank said he will draw up a proposal for a Clyde Alley plan. Michele LaRue said she had some reservations regarding the development of Clyde Alley.

- d. Date/place for summertime Whidbey Arts Forum - Diane Divelbess reminded everyone that the summer calendar on Whidbey is always very full and open dates are filling up fast. She mentioned that the Whidbey Island Area fair has been moved forward to July 20-23, and many weekends are already taken by the various festivals. She offered her own home and grounds as a possible venue for the Whidbey Arts Forum, but said she would need a date to be selected. A question was raised as to the appropriateness of the use of a private residence as the venue for workshops for public arts organizations. For example, maybe a building at the fairgrounds would be better. The discussion was tabled until our next meeting.

2. Reports:

- a. Seawall Park - Brigid Reynolds said the next planning meeting is March 13, 2017. She is meeting with property owners whose land is adjacent to Seawall Park. Since some owners are away for much of the year, it is somewhat difficult to find solutions. Joann Quintana mentioned that the planning committee finally selected the theme of "Northwest Natural," having initially started with themes of arts of the Pacific Northwest. The design process may be similar to that used for People's Park on the corner of 2nd Street and Anthes, where individual artists were sought to submit their ideas and plans. Accessibility and meeting the guidelines of the ADA will be the most challenging aspects in the development of Seawall Park.
- b. Street buskers in Langley - Hank Nelson mentioned that people he spoke with were not particularly interested in the topic of street buskers, and he speculated that perhaps there might be more interest in the summer. He noted that when a scheduled arts event occurred, entertainers were likely to be found performing outside or on the sidewalks, i.e., at an opening at Museo or during WICA's Django Fest, but that otherwise the sidewalks were pretty quiet. It was decided to table this discussion unless/until the idea of street buskers developed organically.
- c. Status of the 45th Annual Langley Street Dance poster/logo design - Callahan McVay said he would have a Call to Artists ready to go out shortly. Michele LaRue displayed an earlier poster for the Street Dance that she had designed and everyone loved it! A suggestion was made that it could be used for this year's event by just changing the dates. Roxanne Taylor said she wanted to send in a poster design, so a Call to Artists will go out to the public.
- d. Status of Artists in Action Day - Jeannie Miller said she will get in touch with Rene Neff and they will report at our next meeting. Roxanne Taylor suggested that the fairgrounds be given serious consideration as a site for sculpture activities.
- e. Langley Public Arts Walking Tour Brochure - Michele LaRue said she is working with Michaleen McGarry who is doing the graphic design. She promised that the brochure will be printed in time for the April 22, 2017 Sculpture Northwest Bus Tour.
- f. Langley Wayfinding Planning - Brigid Reynolds said there are no new developments at this time.

3. New Business:

- a. Landscaping at the Post Office sculpture site - Michele LaRue said that the landscaping needs attention there as it is overgrown and unattractive. She wondered who is responsible for the upkeep. Callahan McVay said that he thought money for interns might be available for landscape maintenance around town. However, the Post Office property is not under Langley's control. Frank Rose said he will speak with the Postmaster.
- b. Future changes at the fairgrounds - Roxanne Taylor mentioned that with the ownership of the fairgrounds transferring to the Port of South Whidbey at the end of March 2017, changes will begin to be made. She mentioned several likely changes, but mainly she hoped people would pay attention to the improvements.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Diane Divelbess, Secretary

The next LAC meeting will be Thursday April 13, 2017 at 9:15 AM.