

Minutes of Langley Arts Commission Meeting, Thursday January 14, 2016,
Langley City Hall, 212 Second Street, Langley WA

Meeting Called to Order at 9:30 AM by Chairperson Frank Rose.

Attending: Frank Rose, Stacie Burgua, Diane Divelbess, Michele LaRue, Callahan McVay, Jeannie Miller, Hank Nelson, City Staff Jack Lynch, Council Liaison Rene Neff.

Guests: Mayor Tim Callison, Scott Alexander, Tim Leonard, Lin McJunkin, Sue Taves.

Minutes of December 10, 2015 - Michele LaRue moved/Jeannie Miller seconded that Minutes be approved as written. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION:

1). Judging Criteria for Clyde Alley Archway and presentation of CAA Proposals: the Secretary distributed a Judging Form with a list of public art criteria for LAC members to use for reference. The criteria were compiled from those circulated earlier by Frank Rose and Hank Nelson. Frank Rose had prepared a large poster showing the 5 different proposals; several artists had set out mock-ups and drawings/photos, as well. In the absence of Melissa Koch, Frank Rose presented her project. Scott Alexander, Sue Taves, Lin McJunkin and Tim Leonard followed with their presentations.

2). Discussion and Selection of CAA Design: discussion was lively and covered questions about the existing stand pipe, location off 3rd Street, length of walkway between 3rd and 2nd Streets and safety issues. Since Clyde Alley is on City property, the project will have to meet City engineering standards. The Secretary distributed paper ballots; a separate sheet with the numbered artists' names had previously been distributed. LAC members wrote the number of their choice on their ballot and passed the ballots to the Secretary who read the results aloud. The winning design was that from the partnership of Lin McJunkin (glass artist) and Milo White (metal sculptor). Mayor Tim Callison and LAC members thanked all artists present for their thoughtful work and participation in this project.

3). Langley Comprehensive Plan, Economic Development Element, "Goal 2 - Arts, Culture and Education" update: Frank Rose distributed copies of the updated section which had undergone changes during a workshop held on January 4. The choice of date was determined by the fact that the City had scheduled the Arts Element of the Comprehensive Plan on January 6 and January 20. There was much discussion and questioning about the specificity of some proposed Performing Arts projects, with the feeling that "the tail was wagging the dog." With the realization that the role of LAC should continue to be open to proposals but not actively making them, the final 5 "bullets" on the updated version were stricken. Stacie Burgua will prepare a statement regarding the Performing Arts that will go in their place. It was moved (Burgua) and seconded (Miller) that the updated version of "Goal 2 - Arts, Culture and Education" be approved with these changes. Motion carried.

4). Performing Arts input to Langley Public Art Master Plan: at the LAC workshop on January 4, a Whidbey Island Annual Arts Retreat had been proposed by Jeannie

Miller. After discussion, suggestions were made, and at today's meeting her revised version was distributed. With this second reading it was further suggested that words implying that LAC "establish" such a retreat be changed to "invite" local arts groups to consider organizing a retreat. Another proposal, that of creating an "Arts School and Cultural Quarter for Langley," was met by many objections, not the least of which was the statement that "this was not City business." These objections were due primarily to the presumption in the proposal that the Langley Middle School would be the logical location for such a "cultural quarter" as it already houses two performing arts groups and faces a steadily declining pupil enrollment. However, the Langley Middle School is under the governance of the South Whidbey School District and has many very loyal supporters for its remaining open as a school. Nevertheless, the idea of Langley as a center for the arts is alive and well, and LAC remains open to further suggestions.

REPORTS:

1). Timeline for selection of Post Office Site Art Proposals: (a) Selection of qualifying artists from the 11 artists who submitted proposals by end of January 2016. (b) Selected artists asked to submit final designs by February 25, 2016. (c) LAC members visit studios March/April 2016. (d) Finalist selection April 14, 2016. (e) Installation of selected artwork at the Langley Post Office site July/August 2016. Note: the date for the selection of qualifying artists was set for Thursday January 21, 2016 at 9:30 AM.

2). Inventory of Langley Public Art: Michele LaRue said that Frank Rose has volunteered to take the photographs. She is still waiting for a few more artist bios, but eventually there will be a permanent copy of the Inventory.

3). Langley Public Arts Consortium: Frank Rose read the names of all the groups and individuals who have agreed to join the Consortium or who have expressed interest in it. It is essentially the support group for LAC's projects, helping with direct funding or in-kind gifts.

4). Second Street Sculpture II unveiling, Saturday January 9, 2016: Frank Rose said the unveiling went very well. The new sculptures had been installed on Thursday, January 7, and then covered, awaiting their official reception. There was a good crowd, and because of the morning's Sea Float Scramble, hot cocoa and baked goodies were available. It was noted that the event was written up in the South Whidbey Record, including a photograph. These new sculptures by Woody Morris and Dale Reiger replaced ones by Sue Taves and Lloyd Whannell.

There being no further business, Meeting was Adjourned at 11:30 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Diane Divelbess, Secretary