

Minutes of City of Langley Arts Commission Meeting, Thursday July 9, 2015.

Present: Frank Rose, Stacie Burgua, Diane Divelbess, Michele LaRue, Callahan McVay, Hank Nelson, City Staff Michael Davolio.

Guests: Melene Thomson and Marty Mathews, Port of South Whidbey.

Meeting called to order by Frank Rose at 9:30 a.m.

Minutes of June 11, 2015, were read; motion to approve by Michele LaRue with second by Hank Nelson. Motion carried.

Presentation by Melene Thomson and Marty Mathews on proposals to enable the fairgrounds to become self sustaining and to work cooperatively with the City of Langley in promoting the Arts. They have had conversations regarding renting of space to artists for studios, and renting space for creative light industry. The difficulty with rentals, however, is that all space must be released for a minimum of one month each year for use of the annual Fair. Therefore, they proposed a major two weekend exhibition/festival to be held on the fairgrounds this October. This event would include classic cars, wine tasting, art exhibition, dance, etc. They feel under pressure from the Port of South Whidbey to show improvement to "the bottom line," and also, since the Port's lease with the County expires April 30, 2016, they have a time constraint as well.

Discussion: Frank Rose said he sees the major exhibition/festival as being part of LAC's mission, but he feels it is a very short window of time to pull it off and both time and money for publicity are needed. Michael Davolio said that such an event would have to be worked cooperatively with the Langley galleries. Diane Divelbess said that a truly ambitious event like this would need a minimum of one year to plan, and it would be a great mistake to undertake a project on short notice that would be doomed to failure. Callahan McVay suggested several arts events he was familiar with -- "Arts Alive," a 20 hour day of artist demo activity; the Sedona, AZ month long festival of the arts; a Welding Rodeo and a day of Chainsaw Carvers. The Pole Building was mentioned as a possibility for parties and weddings if the heating could be resolved. People remembered the former "Harvest Balls" held there. Stacie Burgua said that LAC has a Project Proposal Application process and it should be followed. Diane suggested that since the two guests from the Port needed support, LAC should draft a letter of support regarding their future proposals for arts projects on the fairgrounds and send it to the South Whidbey Port Commissioners. Frank and Diane will continue this discussion.

Fire House Mural: Frank said the mural by Emily Moore will be finished by July 15. Vic Hanson of Hanson Lumber has donated the plywood and paint, and should be acknowledged.

LAC Fund Raising Committee: no discussion other than we must raise additional \$1,000 for the artist stipend.

LAC development of Langley Public Art Plan: Frank will complete a proposed version that will acknowledge the list of suggestions made by attendees at the City of Langley Arts Economic Workshop, June 30, 2015. It will contain the purpose and goals of our Public Art Plan and list the current four projects underway. It will also list projects under discussion by LAC.

Reports:

Frank reported that the Call to Artists for Post Office Site Art went out to the public June 30, 2015.

Michael distributed two packets of information to each member of the LAC regarding the two sculptors who submitted proposals for the Second Street Sculpture Competition. The sculptors are Woody Morris and Dan Freeman. Frank will arrange times when the LAC members can visit their studios and view the proposed work.

Michael also distributed the list of suggestions for public art made by folks at the Langley Arts Economic Workshop.

Seawall Park will be discussed at a later date.

Michele said she needed a photographer to work with her now on the Langley Art Inventory. Michael said he will do that and will borrow Frank's camera. Michele is still collecting artist bios. The public art that is on display for a limited time only, for example the Second Street Sculpture, will also be listed in the Inventory, including the sales price. Frank reminded us that the Langley City Council approved the maintenance plan for public art.

For the Good of the Order: Michael distributed information on a favorite project he was familiar with from a former community. Entitled "Before I Die I Want To \_\_\_\_\_," this interactive public art project created by Candy Chang of New Orleans invites people's responses by simply providing chalkboard paint-coated plywood panels, the above phrase stenciled in columns and chalk. Several LAC members were familiar with the idea and the proposal was met with enthusiasm. There will be further discussion.

Callahan moved to adjourn the meeting, Michele seconded, meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Diane Divelbess, Secretary