

BELLEVUE ARTS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES

June 3, 2014
4:30 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Room 1E -109

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chairperson Jackson, Commissioners Cole, Ludeña, Malkin, Manfredi

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Mary Pat Byrne, Scott MacDonald, Department of Planning and Community Development

OTHERS PRESENT: None

RECORDING SECRETARY: Gerry Lindsay

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:32 p.m. by Chairperson Jackson who presided. All Commissioners were present.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

A. Approval of Agenda

Chair Jackson noted that reference to "Chair Tremblay" on the agenda should be changed to "Chair Jackson."

A motion to approve the agenda as amended was made by Commissioner Malkin. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Manfredi and it carried unanimously.

B. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the May 6, 2014, minutes as submitted was made by Commissioner Malkin. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Manfredi and it carried unanimously.

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – None

4. ACTION ITEMS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Bellwether 2014: Connect

- i. Update on Event and Planning for Opening
- ii. The Artists

Arts Specialist Mary Pat Byrne said opening night will be June 27. She said the Arts Commissioners will serve as the official hosts of the event. Mayor Balducci and Chair Jackson will make a few remarks. The event is expected to draw about 400. There will be food and music.

Ms. Byrne said the staffing shortfall has resulted in the loss of the teen project and there are fewer sponsorships. The *Bellevue Reporter* intends to be involved, and the site sponsors are all in place. There will be installations to the light standards on the west side of Bellevue Way.

An unusually low number of artists applied for the exhibition. When the issue was presented to the jury, the recommendation was made to invite specific artists. The artists proposed by the jury are all very good, and nearly all are creating new work for the show in the form of big works. While exciting, the upshot of it all is that things are running behind schedule. City Hall staff involved in the permitting and inspections have all been very helpful. Artists will be building works onsite both at City Hall and in Downtown Park.

The Commissioners were shown photos of the locations where works will be sited, along with photos of the pieces that will be in the show. Ms. Byrne reminded the Commissioners that a pedestrian corridor project will be sponsored with the Bellevue Arts Museum for works in front of Macy's and on the lamp posts in the pedestrian corridor between Bellevue Way and 108th Avenue NE. There will also be a storefront installation at Meydenbauer Center in the windows facing the road.

B. East Link Art

Ms. Byrne said she and Barbara Luecke attended the May 21 meeting of the East Link permitting CAC. The committee was appointed by the Council to make recommendations to the staff on design matters related to the permits Sound Transit will need to construct the East Link project. It is within purview of the Commission to comment on and make recommendations regarding public art. For the East Link project, the Commission is serving as an expert advisor for the CAC. All of the work done to date by the Commission regarding East Link art opportunities was forwarded to the CAC. Many of the issues discussed by the Commission have been incorporated in documents produced by the CAC. At the May 21 CAC meeting, the members were excited to know the Commission is paying attention to their work relative to public art for the East Link project.

Ms. Byrne shared with the Commission the presentation made to the CAC regarding three of the stations in the East Link alignment: South Bellevue, Downtown and 130th Avenue NE. She said a panel was appointed to select artists. The panel was comprised of two Enatai residents; Heather Trescases, the executive director of the Eastside Heritage Center; Commissioner Ludeña; an artist; the station architect and an architect for Sound Transit. Ms. Byrne said she and Mr. MacDonald advised the panel.

The panel selected artist Vicki Scuri address the guideway and/or the plaza for the South Bellevue station. Ms. Scuri has an impressive portfolio of public art created for large infrastructure projects, including the Newport Way wall in Bellevue. Examples of her work were shown to the Commission.

Another opportunity for art at the South Bellevue station involves the garage façade. The artist chosen to address it is Katy Stone. Examples of her work were shown to the Commission.

Ms. Byrne pointed out that while Ms. Scuri has a great deal of experience with public art, Ms Stone does not. The panel, however, was impressed by Ms. Stone during her interview with her problem solving abilities. Their thinking was that in association with the Meta Arté team and the partnership with Ms. Scuri, Ms. Stone will gain valuable experience that will help her succeed on a much larger scale.

Ms. Byrne said the Meta Arté team will also be focused on seating areas for the center-loading platforms. The team saw examples in use in Los Angeles and were impressed with how they gave the stations a kind of hominess to what is otherwise just a large piece of infrastructure. The team

intends to incorporate seating areas at the South Bellevue and hospital stations since those two platforms are center-loading.

Downtown station will be a signature station for a bustling downtown. It will give people a strong sense of arrival. The artwork should be something people will go out of their way to see. The downtown station panelists included Chair Jackson and Commissioner Malkin; Alice Chang, a downtown resident; Stacy Graven, the executive director of the Meydenbauer Center; Stefano Catalani, Director of Arts, Crafts and Design for the Bellevue Arts Museum; and Brian Brand, a former Arts Commissioner, former Bellevue Downtown Association president, and longtime principal of Baylis Architects; artist Dan Corson; and John Walser, architect for Sound Transit. The opportunities for art installations are the large area above the portal and the north façade windscreens and landscape planters.

Ball - Nogues is the studio chosen by the panel to address the portal. Examples of their work were shown to the Commissioners and it was noted that the studio loves engineering and the challenges of working with architecture and structure to create something really spectacular.

The artist chosen to focus on the north station façade is Paul Marioni, a legendary Northwest glass and terrazzo artist with extensive experience in the use of ambient light.

Ms. Byrne said the Meta Arté team envisions incorporating what they are calling the cyclotron, a lit cylinder display with rotating art, in the east entry. The art would be supplied by Sound Transit and possibly by the city's public art program.

The Commissioners were reminded that the 130th Avenue station is located in the heart of the Bel-Red arts district. East Link will establish the tone in Bel-Red as the place for art. There will be both industrial references and sustainable development. There is a difference, however, between what the Arts Commission emphasized and what the East Link CAC emphasized in terms of context. The CAC did not, however, resist in any way the idea of Bel-Red as an arts district and were in fact enthusiastic to see what kind of art will be chosen. The 130th Avenue station is the most constrained of all the stations; there is not much space around it and little opportunity for art given that streets will run along it on either side. The key opportunity identified by the panel was the fence that will be located in both sides.

The artist chosen by the panel is Patrick Marold. Photos of his work were shown to the Commission.

Ms. Byrne showed photos of an area near Pacific Northwest Ballet. The trail alignment will cut through the existing building and after all is said and done there will be a piece of surplus land available which may be appropriate for a sculpture. Little attention has been given to the site to date relative to exactly how the site could be used.

C. Budget One Proposals

Ms. Byrne noted that earlier in the year staff city-wide drafted proposals as part of the city's budgeting process called Budget One. In past years, the arts program has not ranked well against other proposals. The Council, however, has been consistent in their support for the Arts Program and at the Commission's request acted to make sure the arts program proposed cuts are restored each biennium.

The first public hearing on the budget was held on May 10. The second is slated for July 21 and will be followed by a City Council budget workshop in late July, and then by a third public hearing on November 17. The Council will deliberate the preliminary budget between October and December and will adopt the final budget before the end of the calendar year. The Arts Commission has the

option of speaking at the public hearings, and in fact it is pretty much expected that the Commission will address Council regarding the budget.

Commissioner Malkin asked if there is a way to subsidize the artists currently located in the Spring District who may be forced to move as rents increase. Ms. Byrne said that is something the Commission could certainly take a close look at. Commissioner Malkin said he liked the idea of the city obtaining a building and leasing space in it only to those who meet certain arts-related criteria. Ms. Byrne said the planning staff has heard the message about the need for facilities, as has the Council. She said she and Mr. MacDonald have been talking with Chris Salomone, director of Planning and Community Development about ways the challenge could be addressed.

Commissioner Malkin stressed the need for the Commission to attend and provide testimony during the upcoming public hearings to highlight the need for continued funding.

Ms. Byrne said to date there has been no communication with the arts community about the budget. The actual budget proposal is presented by the City Manager to Council in the fall. At that time it becomes public and the Commission can talk with the arts community about what is in the budget.

Commissioner Malkin said the Bel-Red art district representatives should be asked to attend and comment.

6. COMMISSION QUICK BUSINESS

Ms. Byrne proposed canceling the July meeting of the Commission because of the ongoing focus on Bellwether.

Chair Jackson said she had no objections to canceling the meeting. She said she was also open to scheduling a special meeting if necessary ahead of the July 21 public hearing to discuss what should be said. There was agreement to schedule a meeting for 4:00 p.m. July 17.

7. REPORTS

A. Commissioners' Committee and Lead Reports

i. Downtown Livability CAC Update

Chair Jackson said the meeting of the Downtown Livability CAC on May 21 was a marathon session. Though the meeting did not adjourn until 10:45 p.m., the committee was unable to work its way through the entire published agenda. The primary discussions regarded building height and bulk as well as parking. Rendering software was used to give the committee members visual images of what the downtown could look like given the push for taller and denser buildings in the downtown and to the edge of the freeway. There is strong development pressure in favor of allowing more height and bulk. The open house on June 3 will take the ideas to the public to seek input. The work of the committee is coming to a close and it is clear that the average citizen has not had as much input to the process as one might wish.

Ms. Byrne asked where the issues related to the arts have fallen out. Chair Jackson said they were not discussed at the May 21 meeting. She said she did not know where they will end up when the final incentives list is drafted.

Ms. Byrne said that during her entire tenure with the city there has been talk of improving the incentives system to make art more attractive to developers. The Downtown Livability Initiative

process is the chance to make that happen. The issue will need to be tracked, and if necessary the Commission should be prepared to talk with the Planning Commission.

Mr. MacDonald said in his talks with planning staff it has been made clear that everyone on the CAC accepts that the arts are important. The issue was not discussed merely to allow time to focus on the issues around which there was contention.

Chair Jackson explained that one reason the arts incentives are low is that parking is valued so high. Currently, just putting in the minimum parking yields more plus points than the developer can use, leaving no need to tap into other incentives. The committee is considering taking parking off the list of incentives; if that happens, the incentives on the list will become true incentives.

Ms. Byrne said there will be a time when it will be appropriate for the Arts Commission to go to a Planning Commission meeting, just like there will be a time to go before the City Council. Whatever is decided relative to the codes for the downtown will eventually have a direct impact on changes across the city.

8. CORRESPONDENCE, INFORMATION

A. Written Correspondence - As Noted

i. Bellevue Youth Symphony Orchestra Thank-you for Support

9. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Jackson adjourned the meeting at 6:19 p.m.