

BELLEVUE ARTS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES

October 7, 2014
4:30 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Room 1E -109

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chairperson Jackson, Commissioners Malkin, Manfredi, Wolfteich

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Commissioner Lewis, Ludeña

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Jessica Skelton, Pacifica Law Group; Toni Vincent-Fisher, Deuce McLain, Parkside residents

RECORDING SECRETARY: Gerry Lindsay

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting began without a quorum at 4:39 p.m. Chairperson Jackson presided. All Commissioners were present with the exception of Commissioner Wolfteich, who arrived at 4:42 p.m., and Commissioner Ludeña, who was excused.

4. ACTION ITEMS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Board and Commission Training

Jessica Skelton with Pacifica Law Group explained that the legislature has made training in regard to the Public Records Act and the Open Public Meetings Act mandatory for all city councilmembers and all members of appointed boards and commissions. She noted that bodies that do not have adopted bylaws, such as the Arts Commission, are governed by Washington state law and the City Council boards and procedures. Where questions arise as to which procedure applies, state law always trumps. Compliance with procedures is required in order to give the public confidence that the public business is being conducted fairly, objectively and orderly, and with public participation. The philosophy behind the Public Records Act and the Open Public Meetings Act is to assure public access.

Commissioner Wolfteich arrived and a quorum was reached.

Ms. Skelton Action proceeded to give detailed information on correct procedures for staying in compliance with state law and potential penalties for violations.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

A. Approval of Agenda

Chair Jackson proposed moving agenda item 4.C ahead of item 4.B.

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

B. Approval of September 9, 2014, Special Meeting Minutes

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

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Kathy Key, public services librarian with the Bellevue library, said she was present to observe the Commission and to keep abreast of issues related to art the library should be aware of.

4. ACTION ITEMS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS (Continued)

C. 2015 Funding Guides Review

Chair Jackson said the Commission's Allocations subcommittee annually reviews all funding applications and brings to the full Commission a recommendation for both Special Projects and Eastside Arts Partnerships funding programs. The guidelines and the application must be approved by the Commission and the Council.

Commissioner Malkin referred to the Part 1 Excellence section of the application and the phrase "250 words suggested" and said applicants routinely ignore the word limit, making it necessary for the subcommittee members to read very lengthy proposals. He suggested the phrase should be replaced with "limit of 250 words is not to be exceeded." He further proposed allowing up to 500 words to explain how the organization has or has not met its goals over the past year, and how broadly the organization reaches out to diverse populations.

Ms. Byrne commented that given the amount of information asked for in the application imposing a limit of 250 words may not be practical. She suggested 500 words would be a better limit.

Chair Jackson said the egregious offenders are those who use boilerplate language and then in the last paragraph realize the specific question had not been answered. The reviewers must wade through a lot of wording before getting to what is really important. The applicants should be asked to concisely address the questions asked.

A motion to endorse the Allocation Committee's recommendations for updates to the Eastside Arts Partnership and Special Projects 2014 funding guidelines, as amended, was made by Commissioner Malkin. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wolfeich and it carried unanimously.

B. Bridle Trails Gazebo

Ms. Byrne said she recently became aware that the Neighborhood Outreach staff were dealing with an issue related to the Bridle Trails gazebo, which is located adjacent to the new public art project and which from certain angles visually becomes a part of the public art project recently installed. The gazebo is a neighborhood icon and has deep roots in the neighborhood. It was constructed 42 years ago as part of the original Parkside development. Earlier in the year the gazebo was destroyed by an auto accident, though the dome was saved.

Ms. Byrne said the community has the money to rebuild the gazebo, but the city wants them to take on an insurance liability, something the community is not able to do. One option is to rebuild the gazebo and gift it to the city. There are aspects that appear to make the gazebo appropriate to add to the public art collection. It is an attractive, distinctive, stand-alone architectural feature that is a beloved neighborhood icon.

In a meeting with Parkside and Bridle Trails representatives, there was discussion about Parkside agreeing to take care of annual maintenance and minor repairs such as graffiti removal; that the city's Public Art Program would be responsible for single repairs exceeding \$500. A process would need to be developed for communicating repair needs. The city would insure the work and Parkside would indemnify the city from all claims. The city would provide a plaque identifying the gazebo as part of the city's public art collection and collaborate with Parkside on wording to tell the story of the gazebo.

The city has in place policies regarding the acceptance of gifts and loans and those criteria will need to be addressed and determined to have been met. If the Commission can reach a conclusion and vote to accept the gazebo as a gift ahead of the Bridle Trails public art project dedication, an announcement could be made as part of the ceremony.

Ms. Toni Vincent-Fisher, a professional photographer and artist who lives in the Parkside neighborhood, said for the past 42 years the gazebo has served as an iconic landmark for the community of Bridle Trails. It marks the entrance to the 20-acre cul-de-sac called Parkside and the entrance to a trail leading into Bridle Trails State Park. At night it stands like a lighthouse illuminating a dark corner of the S-curve and providing a better line of sight for drivers heading north. During the day the gazebo has traditionally provided shelter for children waiting for a school bus, and a place for joggers to catch their breath and take a moment to enjoy the view. Given its location near the new public art project by Bruce Myers, the gazebo now helps locate that work.

Continuing, Ms. Vincent-Fisher said in order to obtain the necessary building permits to reconstruct the gazebo, the city required an indemnity agreement that the Parkside homeowners association could take on. Instead, they are proposing to rebuild the structure and then gift it to the City. The neighborhood intends to rebuild the structure to be more sturdy and accessible than it was before. It will be ADA compliant, the foundation will have rebar in it where the previous one did not, and the salvaged dome will be re-metaled with a roofing material that will look identical to a patina of copper but which will last much longer.

Ms. Byrne added that the gazebo is not just for the Parkside community. It serves as a clear identifier along 132nd Avenue NE, and those who routinely use the busy arterial into Bridle Trails are familiar with it.

Ms. Duse McLain, also a Parkside resident, noted that Don Staber who developed the Parkside neighborhood, created the gazebo as an identifier for the development. Ms. Vincent-Fisher added that Parkside Stables has a sister dome sitting on top of its barn.

Commissioner Wolfteich asked if an artist will be involved in the design of the rebuild. Ms. Byrne said because a structure is being recreated, the emphasis is on replicating the earlier design. As a result, no artist is involved in the rebuild. The intent is to recapture the neighborhood icon.

Commissioner Malkin asked if consideration had been given to having Parks be the city department in charge of the gazebo once it is rebuilt. Ms. Byrne said she was not aware of the project being considered by Parks.

Referring to the policy on gifts and loans, Chair Jackson asked what the referenced Visual Arts Committee is. Ms. Byrne said the Visual Arts Committee became a committee of the whole in deference to the fact that much of the work of the Commission is focused on the public art program.

Answering a question asked by Chair Jackson, Ms. Byrne said any funds needed to make repairs would come from the Public Art Program and would not impact the funding of the Eastside Arts Partnerships and Special Projects programs.

Ms. Vincent-Fisher pointed out that in its 42-year history the gazebo has not been vandalized by graffiti or by kids carving their initials in it. Everybody loves it and it has been treated with care and respect.

Commissioner Malkin suggested the gazebo meets all of the process requirements established in the gifts and loans policy, with the exception of item C.3, professional credentials of the artist. He said he could support accepting the gazebo as an historical icon.

A motion to recommend that staff pursue accepting the gift of the Parkside neighborhood's gazebo as part of the public art collection was made by Commissioner Malkin. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Manfredi and it carried unanimously.

Commissioner Malkin left the meeting and a quorum was lost.

D. Agenda Items Through the End of 2014

Chair Jackson commented that there is more to be done by the Commission during the month of October than can be accomplished in a single meeting. She proposed scheduling a special meeting for October 21 to discuss the Tateuchi road show outreach, the next two neighborhood public art projects, and the budget.

Ms. Byrne informed the Commission that the budget is in a gradual rollout to City Council. At the Council meeting on October 6, the City Manager conducted a budget workshop and went over the general parameters. He is expected to release the budget in a day or so and at that point it will be known how the arts program is fairing. Both in 2010 and 2012 there were efforts made to cut funding for the grants programs. By October 21 the Commission will know what the budget numbers are and will be able to talk to arts groups about the numbers. In the past the Council has expected the Arts Commission to talk with the arts groups and to report back relative to the impacts that could result from making changes to the budget.

After much discussion, there was agreement to schedule the arts groups annual meeting for October 21 and a special Arts Commission meeting for October 28.

5. COMMISSION QUICK BUSINESS - None

6. REPORTS

A. Commissioners' Committee and Lead Reports - None

B. Project Updates from Staff

i. Bridle Trails Public Art Dedication

Ms. Byrne said the dedication ceremony is slated for October 11. A portion of the area around the median where the art installation is will be blocked off. Parking will be limited but permission has been obtained from the stable owner to allow parking there. The Commissioners will play host to those who attend while the staff direct traffic. There will be musicians present, and cake will be served. The event is slated to begin at 11:30 a.m. and Mayor Balducci will deliver a few remarks, as will former Arts Commission Chair Judith Holder and the artist Bruce Myers; all of the talking should be done within about 20 minutes and the ceremony will be officially over by 1:00 p.m.

ii. Other Projects

Ms. Byrne reported that a reprint of ArtMap – Downtown, a map of all publicly accessible art work located in the downtown, both publicly and privately owned, was recently completed. The original 3,000 copies disappeared very quickly and now the City has 3,000 more copies. The biggest consumer was the Bellevue Regional Library. More copies will be delivered to the library as well as to the Bellevue Arts Museum and other locations. They are in demand at City Hall at the front desk as well.

The Commissioners were informed that a new Storefront display has been set up in the Meydenbauer Center windows that face NE 6th Street. The displays there are usually in place for three months at a time,. The process of renegotiating a contract with Storefronts is under way now that the initial term has ended.

With regard to the Newport Hills/Lake Heights project, Ms. Byrne reported that art for the bus shelters has been installed and the landscaping is in progress. The artist Bruce Myers is working in his studio on the rain chain. A completion date hasn't been set. Depending on favorable weather, installation could be completed this year.

Ms. Byrne said the Council will be provided with an update regarding City/PACE collaboration's progress on October 20. She said the Council will be told about the planned outreach efforts and that the Commissioners are all on board to participate in the road show presentations that will begin in November. A consultant has been identified to conduct an independent evaluation of Tateuchi Center's 10-year operating *pro forma* as well and programming and audience availability as part of the City's due diligence in considering an investment in the project.

7. CORRESPONDENCE, INFORMATION

A. Written Correspondence - As Noted

i. Letter from David Plummer

B. Information - As Noted

8. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Jackson adjourned the meeting at 6:28 p.m.