

BELLEVUE ARTS COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES  
(approved as corrected February 2, 2010)

December 1, 2009  
4:00 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall  
Room 1E -109

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chairperson Finley, Commissioners Holder, Ptacek, Shepherd, Smith

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Commissioners Kiselev, Tremblay

STAFF PRESENT: Mary Pat Byrne, Matt Terry, Department of Planning and Community Development

OTHERS PRESENT: Councilmember Bonincontri

RECORDING SECRETARY: Gerry Lindsay

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:13 p.m. by Chairperson Finley who presided. All Commissioners were present except Commissioner Shepherd, who arrived at 4:20 p.m., and Commissioners Kiselev and Tremblay, both of whom were excused.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

A. Approval of Agenda

**Motion to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner Holder. Second was by Commissioner Smith and the motion carried unanimously.**

B. Approval of Minutes

**Motion to approve the November 3, 2009, minutes as submitted was made by Commissioner Holder. Second was by Commissioner Ptacek and the motion carried unanimously.**

III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Chair Finley spoke for the Commission in thanking Councilmember Bonincontri for being a strong advocate on behalf of the Commission and the arts. She presented Councilmember Bonincontri with a small token of appreciation, an artwork by former Arts Commissioner Fred Lisaius.

Councilmember Bonincontri said the arts are facing difficult times. She said it is fortunate that artists are resilient as well as creative.

Arts Specialist Mary Pat Byrne thanked Councilmember Bonincontri for her consistent support of the arts on City Council and advice to the Commission.

Department of Planning and Community Development Director Matt Terry said he had known Councilmember Bonincontri first as a Planning Commissioner and then as a Councilmember. He added his appreciation for the support and advocacy provided on behalf of good architecture and good art in the city, both of which serve as legacies.

#### IV. ACTION ITEMS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

##### A. Work Plan Update

##### 1. Bellwether 2010 Update

Commissioner Shepherd announced that Council granted the Commission's request the previous evening to authorize the budget for the 2010 sculpture exhibition. She said at a subsequent meeting Councilmember Davidson stated that spending money on the arts during economic down times is his least favorite thing to do, however he said that the arts program has momentum and agreed it would be a mistake to interrupt it.

Ms. Byrne said she has continued working on the prospectus. The notion of having interim installations on sites not controlled by the city has added a new layer of complexity. She said she had one meeting with the sponsorship consultant, and has another meeting is planned for December 3. The consultant is working to develop a list of types of recognition the program could offer in exchange for their monetary or in-kind support. The next step will be to organize the inventory into packages for different levels of sponsorship. She said they are working quickly to make up for lost time, trying to get as much done as possible before the holidays.

Commissioner Shepherd suggested the Commission would be willing to at least review draft materials during the latter part of December in anticipation of getting started again in January.

##### 2. Preparing for the 2011 – 2012 Budget Development Process

Mr. Terry informed the Commission that part of the city's capital program includes creating midblock crossings in the downtown. He said the downtown plan identifies 24 possibilities, and the first four will be ready to go to construction early in 2010. The plans do not, however, include the kinds of visual markers the midblock crossings could have. The opportunity exists to integrate art into the design of the crossings.

Mr. Terry said Ms. Byrne had a conversation with those who are doing the design work and worked with them to figure out how an art component could be included. They were intrigued with the notion and agreed to seek additional money to fund the art component.

The timeline for the first four projects is very tight given that construction is slated to begin early in 2010. Mr. Terry said it is possible the art could catch up later. He added that the Council is considering allocating some additional money to the downtown projects, in part to expand the number of midblock crossings.

Ms. Byrne said her talks with the design staff led her to understand that they are interested in interim solutions for the poles. That temporary work would later be replaced by permanent artwork. She said she would be looking into how an artist could be brought on board sooner rather than later. If public art program dollars are used, there are certain rules that must be followed.

Chair Finley said it is less expensive to integrate art from the start than it is to add it later. Mr. Terry concurred and stated that that will be more of a possibility for the midblock crossings to be added later.

Commissioner Shepherd suggested that the integration of art with the kiosks along the Pedestrian Corridor was so successful it would be an easy matter to make an argument in favor of using the same artists, though probably not the same artistic images.

Mr. Terry pointed out that when the Downtown Implementation Plan was first developed there were some graphics created showing what the midblock crossings could look like. The drawings were intended only to spark imaginations, but they might serve as a starting point. Ms. Byrne added that one of the items on the work plan is developing themes and basic treatments for gateways; that work could possibly be combined with developing ideas for the midblock crossings.

Commissioner Ptacek asked if there could be some branding or something similar that could be incorporated into the street itself. Mr. Terry said there will be some pavement marking to designate the crossings, though the plan does not call for tearing up the existing pavement and putting down special pavers. Ms. Byrne said there is a thermal application process that can be used to create any design and apply it to the pavement.

Chair Finley said her desire would be to incorporate art that is vibrant and colorful, something that will get the attention of people.

Commissioner Holder voiced her support for incorporating art into the midblock crossing program provided the Public Art Program is not responsible for paying for it.

Ms. Byrne agreed to bring more information to a future Commission meeting and of images of treatments in other cities to review as examples of what is possible. She said she would include information about how the artist selection process could move forward and be prepared to answer commissioners' questions.

### 3. Funding Recommendations Update

Chair Finley reported that the visit to Council to report on 2010's funding allocations recommendations went very well. She said the questions asked focused on the diversity of projects. Council members appreciated outreach efforts made for 2010 and encouraged the Commission to do more to include greater diversity in the projects selected.

Ms. Byrne said Councilmember Balducci said she was intrigued by the list of special projects recommended by the Commission and suggested producing a visual presentation so everyone can see all the amazing things that are happening around the city. Ms. Byrne said she had a conversation with the staff from *It's Your City* and they are willing to work with her to put something together.

### 4. Review of Work Plan Approval Status

Ms. Byrne pointed out that the Commission traditionally meets the third Tuesday in January instead of the first to allow for sufficient time to plan the meeting. She added, however, that Commissioner Kiselev had indicated she would be traveling January 15 to January 19.

Commissioner Holder suggested that the January meeting could be skipped and the February meeting made slightly longer if necessary. There was consensus to cancel the January Commission meeting.

## V. COMMISSION QUICK BUSINESS

Ms. Byrne noted that other city boards and commissions and City Council start their meetings by having members share their activities relating to Commission work since the last meeting. She asked if the Arts Commission should begin its meetings with that information as well. The Commissioners agreed that would be a good idea.

## VI. REPORTS

### A. Commissioner Reports

#### 1. Bellevue Arts Activities Attended

Commissioner Ptacek said he had driven over the new 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue bridge. It is landscaped, has some special design touches, and is very nice.

Commissioner Ptacek said the library is talking about a new project to expand the amount of available parking and is thinking about including art. He said he would be willing to explore having a role for the Arts Commission to play.

### B. Staff Reports -- As Noted

Ms. Byrne reported that new artwork, *Quantum Man*, as well as other public art works has been installed at the Bravern. Commissioner Holder said she the work is fantastic.

1. Newport Hills Neighborhood Public Art Project
2. Project Status Report
3. Maintenance Projects List

## VII. INFORMATION AND UPCOMING EVENTS

### A. Written Correspondence – None

### B. For Your Information – As Noted

1. Upcoming Agenda Items
2. Calendar
3. CIP Public Art Program Commitments Update

## VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Finley adjourned the meeting at 5:21 p.m.