



The City Of Gig Harbor Arts Commission

Minutes of the Gig Harbor Arts Commission Meeting, Tuesday July 11, 2006

Call to Order/Roll

The meeting was called to order by Chair Betty Willis at 7:08 PM

Present: Betty Willis, Renee Crist, Mary Rae Lund, Kit Kuhn, Carolyn Arnold, Sally Dutton, Karla Epperson, Mary Rae Lund and Del Woock. Bob Sullivan was absent. Minutes were taken by staff Maureen Whitaker.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The members read the minutes of the June 13, 2006 meeting.

MOTION: Approval of the June 13, 2006, meeting minutes as presented.
Kuhn/Epperson – unanimously approved with minor changes.

Old Business

1. **“Drawing You In” Program:** Lita Dawn Stanton prepared a program outline/information sheet and Maureen brought copies to the meeting per Lita Dawn’s request. The Commissioners stated that they had not yet reviewed this information. Betty asked the group if they would like to review this outline at this meeting. Karla asked if the review could wait until the next meeting because “group” input can oftentimes be more valuable.

Mary Rae asked what the outline would be reviewed for. Betty said the purpose would be to make sure that the outline falls in line with what the Drawing You In Program is all about. Kit identified that one small problem is that the program is already in progress. It was noted that the program is scheduled for every Wednesday through September (16 sessions) from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Betty explained that she had sent an email to Lita Dawn Stanton because she was unable to attend the Drawing You In session on the prior Wednesday. Lita reported that it was very successful and a lot of people attended, including students. Betty stated that the Gateway will be putting together an article on the Program. Betty added that Carolyn was going to put together a press release and it would be published in the Lifestyles section each week until the end of September. Betty asked Carolyn to forward it to her after she typed it up and then Betty will send it out to the Commission members and then send it to Marketing Director Laureen Lund. Mary Rae asked if Lita Dawn would continue to do the mechanics and setting up. Betty said that she would be doing this until the end of September. Renee mentioned that she had some photos of last year’s event.

2. **City Art Commemorating the Bridge Opening:** Betty reported that she had discussed this with City Administrator Mark Hoppen and he sent a response concerning the cement factory. Betty’s question to him was that the GHAC was exploring public art at the location of the cement factory. He explained that this was not feasible, as it is outside of the city’s jurisdiction and it would be quite difficult to get anyone to agree to do this. He also stated that there is another issue concerning this piece of property. DOT purchased this land at

the fair market value and it may never become a park. DOT feels that in order for them to sell it, they would want to sell it at a fair market value. It is held in fee simple. He further stated that while it may be a worthwhile project, it is far more relevant to concentrate on art within the city limits. There was discussion about the location of city limits.

3. Final Review of Information Document: Sally thanked the Commission members for their input in helping to put this together. Betty made a suggestion to change the language from Arts Organizations to Performing Arts Organizations, to be consistent with the bylaws. Other Commission members thought that “performing” arts may not adequately identify all arts organizations so it was agreed to add “visual and performing” arts organizations. Carolyn suggested a change to the language “organizations that sponsor visual and performing arts events to benefit the general public...” Betty said that she will work with the city’s IT person Kay Truitt and would like this form to be available on the GHAC website, with the ability to type in the form and have the capability to be sent to an alias email going directly to Betty. Sally said that she would forward a revised copy to Betty.

4. Extension of Territory: Mary Rae explained that she, Betty and Karla met to collaborate on presenting the need to expand the boundaries for grant recipients due to the lack of venues located within the city limits. Mary Rae reported that currently grant funding can only be awarded to those venues located within city limits and the problem is there are not enough venues located within city limits for non profit organizations to use. It had been suggested to expand the boundaries to the Urban Growth Area (UGA). Renee stated that the funding is coming from the tax base derived within the city limits so the citizens may not be in favor of funding events that are outside of the city limits. Renee suggested to mention that there are a dwindling number of facilities available within the city limits to put on a concert by a legitimate organization, and if we could expand to these areas, it opens up venues that citizens from Gig Harbor are able to attend. Karla added, the goal was to eventually have a performing arts center. Mary Rae said that potential grant applicants need to know before they apply whether their venue is located within an area that can be funded. Mary Rae updated the territory to include Canterwood and Peninsula High School. Betty was concerned because there will be a future amphitheater located at Homestead Park, which was not located within the UGA. Renee added that a small amphitheater was planned at the future Eddon Boat Park. Mary Rae said that during the meeting with Betty and Karla, they discussed including the 98335 and 98332 zip codes in hopes that this would make a reasonable extension of territory. Mary Rae explained that she outlined the 98332 in orange and the 98335 in green. This expansion of territory stops at the Kitsap County line and at the Purdy Bridge. It also goes to the Fox Island Bridge but does not go to Fox Island. Kit questioned whether City Council would approve this change in territory. It was decided that Betty would meet with Mark Hoppen to discuss this matter further. Kit suggested that a clarification be made between the proposed changes to the grant territory and the placement of public art which would remain in the city limits. One of the problems is Harbor Covenant Church, which is a popular venue, is not within the city limits or UGA. More to come....

New Business

1. Public Art – Cushman Trailhead Park – Kit reported that he met with Director of Operations Dave Brereton at the Cushman Trailhead Park. He explained that the front area of the park which is approximately 35 feet long and approximately 10 feet wide (between the logo and the street). Renee also suggested another area of the park that was a little wider. Kit said that Dave and he discussed installing bicycle racks and possibly benches, however there are two benches there already. Kit explained that his personal idea is a turning mobile, a 3 or 4 column steel structure that turns like a sail in the wind made of colorful light material that would add more life to the current feel to the park; and said that there is a lot of wind at this site from SR-16. He further described that the city's fabric colors similar to the city's logo could be used. Another thought is to use sail material, Plexiglas or fiberglass material. Kit reported that the structure(s) could not go higher than the restroom building without getting permission from Tacoma Power because their power lines are located there, but wanted to check into what it would take to get their permission. Carolyn suggested that the structure(s) should be tall enough to avoid vandalism. Kit suggested that the mobile could be created to expand even further when the wind was stronger. Carolyn stated that she had seen a news piece on Channel 5 News reporting on a Washington artist who created kinetic sculptures. There was discussion of putting together an open Call for Artists for a series of two to three movable mobiles that have color with a minimum/maximum height. Kit suggested that 10-15 artists need to be identified that do this type of art and through this research would provide a good idea of the cost associated with such a piece. Kit volunteered to research this. There was discussion about funding and that the public art funds are rolled over annually. The Commission agreed that this would be a great project. Del suggested that someone attend the Bellevue Art Show because there is an artist there that does this type of work. Del said that he had purchased a kinetic piece from him and would try to find out the artist's name. There was more discussion on selecting some bike racks for the site. Dave Brereton had given Kit some outdoor equipment catalogs to review. Kit recommended that it would be prudent to select and purchase something this budget year. Betty suggested to keep local artist Doug Granum in mind, as he does fabulous outdoor art work and he would most likely have good suggestions for the mobile, bicycle racks and benches. Sally mentioned the bench at the Fox Island market that resembled the bridge. Sally said that she would research who the artist is.

Kit inquired how much money was available to purchase a few bike racks and benches. Betty stated that she had a budget meeting with Finance Director Dave Rodenbach and would have a better idea after her meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the best way to present the budget for next year. She also wanted to talk to him about how to retain the remainder of the unused grant monies. Mary Rae suggested that for 2007 budget purposes, find 3-5 similar sculptures that GHAC likes, find out who the artists are and the cost associated for each piece for the purposes of estimating how much to request for next year.

Karla described on a piece of art that she heard about in Santa Fe that moves and plays sounds as movement goes by. She thought that this would be wonderful for walking traffic and wanted to find out more about it. Renee recommended that we consider including Tom Torrens in the Call.

Kit was going to research more about bike racks and benches and get back to the Commission next meeting.

2. Other Public Art - For the record, the Commission wanted it to be known that they reviewed the preliminary design drawings of Eddon Boat Park and noticed that there are three locations shown for public art. They are on the agenda for moving forward. A question arose if the construction budget included funding for the public art.

The Commission agreed to meet for a field trip to the Bogue Viewing Platform (Finholm area), Cushman Trailhead Park and Wilkinson Farm on July 25th at 7:00 p.m.

There was discussion about selecting a few small pieces of functional art and then take it to Dave Brereton for approval. Kit was hoping to get them purchased in August. Betty cautioned to be careful when selecting colors and designs to avoid clashing with any larger, future art installations.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

August 8, 2006 at 7:00 P.M.

ADJOURN:

MOTION: Move to adjourn at 8:55 P.M. – Crist/Arnold – unanimously approved.

Respectively submitted:


Maureen Whitaker
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