



The City Of Gig Harbor Arts Commission

Minutes of the Gig Harbor Arts Commission Meeting Tuesday, March 20, 2007

Present: Betty Willis, Bob Sullivan, Renee Crist, Carolyn Scott Arnold, and Karla Epperson.
Excused: Mary Rae Lund, and Sally Dutton. Minutes taken by staff Maureen Whitaker.

Call to Order/Roll

The meeting was called to order by Chair Betty Willis at 7:10 P.M.

I. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Approval of the February 13 and 27, 2007, meeting minutes as presented. Sullivan/Crist – unanimously approved.

New Business:

II. Donation of Cormorant. 1. Review of Poleman and Birdwoman letter and how it may be used. 2. Presentation of Cormorant to Parks Commission. 3. Then presentation to Mayor and City Council.

There was discussion about the donation process for the proposed bronze cormorant art piece from the Bonney family. Ms. Willis was given some additional photos by the artist's son, Stuart Bonney of the cormorant and the three poles that illustrated the artist process by the artist. Ms. Willis was also given what the Bonney family considers a "poem" called Poleman and Birdwoman that portrays the "true" story of the art piece and its relationship to the artist. Ms. Willis explained that the Bonney family had requested that as a condition of the donation, the City would make an engraved bronze plaque of the "poem" of Poleman and Birdwoman and install it at the bottom of one of the poles. The commission members all agreed that the story was too lengthy and the cost to do this would be very expensive. Mr. Sullivan suggested that this be sent back to Mr. Bonney to be condensed. Mr. Sullivan further stated that some of the story is personal family information that is not suited for inclusion on a plaque. The commission members agreed that the engraved plaque could say a little bit about the partnership and include some family information, but as it stands, the entire story was too lengthy. Ms. Crist stated that what is truly needed is the artist's name, the date that the piece was made, and that it was donated by the Bonney family. Mr. Sullivan suggested that the commission members edit the document and send it to the family. Ms. Scott Arnold suggested the plaque say something along the lines of: Donated by the Bonney Family based on the story of Poleman and Birdwoman, with a very brief description. Ms. Willis said that she would talk to Mr. Bonney again and see what the family's feelings are.

As part of the city's donation process, an ordinance must be authorized by City Council to accept the piece; therefore Ms. Willis has asked Mr. Bonney to provide her with the value of the piece. Ms. Willis also stated that on behalf of the GHAC, she will attend the Parks Commission regular meeting scheduled on April 18th to notify them of the proposed donation. Public Works Supervisor Dan Lilley had attended the field visit to view the bronze cormorant and stated that he thought the best place to install it would be at the Eddon Boat Park Property. The Bonney family was interested in relocating the cormorant as soon as possible. There was discussion about placing the art piece in a temporary location until a better suited location was available.

There was discussion on the time frame for moving forward with the process. The two locations that were discussed were the Skansie Brothers Park at the back of the pavilion by the tree, or at the entrance of the Civic Center.

MOTION: The GHAC recommends the placement of the Bonney family bronze cormorant art piece be installed at the Skansie Brothers Park at the back of the Rotary Pavilion near the tree or at the entrance of the Civic Center.
Sullivan/Crist – unanimously approved.

III. Review of Individuals Applying for Arts Commission Positions.

Under the current by-laws, the four vacancies that need to be filled require that at least two vacancies work or reside within the city limits. The letters of interest had been previously emailed to the commission members and were reviewed for working or residing inside city limits.

The Council Interview Committee has scheduled to meet on March 30th to consider the letters of interest and make their recommendation to Mayor Hunter. The commission members discussed the potential candidates and their related backgrounds.

Mr. Sullivan expressed interest in meeting with the administration to discuss some possible changes to the by-laws for future recruiting. There was also discussion about keeping the Call to Commissioners open all year to garner a greater selection pool.

Ms. Crist expressed great concern that the GHAC Chair and/or Vice Chair were not asked to participate in the interview/selection process with the Council Interview Committee and stated the merit of such participation. She said that the GHAC had participated in the previous year's new appointments. Ms. Willis stated that she and Mr. Sullivan would discuss this further with City Administrator Rob Karlinsey and Mayor Hunter. The Council Interview Committee (Ekberg, Payne and Kadzik) asked that the GHAC provide them with a recommendation. Ms. Crist stated and the commission members concurred that all letters of interest were excellent candidates and therefore the GHAC should consider recommending all six letters received, in light of not being able to participate in the interview process.

IV. Mary Rae Lund will fill Sally Dutton's position in her absence owing to illness.

Mary Rae Lund volunteered to fill in for Sally Dutton during her recovery period with concurrence from the commission members.

V. Review of American for the Arts Call for Artists Resource Guild for the purpose of creating the Arts Commission's document and guidelines.

There was discussion about utilizing this document as a guideline for creating a standardized Call for Artists. Ms. Scott Arnold asked the question if it was GHAC's goal to enhance the city's tourism for the downtown area by enhancing the city's art collection; and if so, this is another reason for attracting well-known artists that are outside the immediate area. Mr. Sullivan responded that it was one of the goals. Ms. Willis voiced her support for the standardization of these guidelines and there was further discussion about the contractual and eligibility nuts and bolts.

There was discussion about who and the number of people that should be part of the review committee. Mr. Sullivan said that part of the call should include this committee information, i.e. City Council member, representative for the arts from the State, architect or engineer, Parks/DRB member, and a GHAC member.

Ms. Willis stated that the GHAC currently has \$88,000 in the city's public art account. There was discussion about developing a program whereby a percentage of private developer costs would go to the public art fund. There was also discussion about compensation for the artists for travel, machetes, etc. Ms. Scott Arnold asked if this could be included in the artists' budget. Mr. Sullivan stated that compensation could attract greater interest.

Mr. Sullivan stated that he would pull out significant portions from the American for the Arts Methods of Artist Selection to begin work on the Call. Ms. Willis stated that these guidelines could be further refined after going out for one or two Calls. Mr. Sullivan provided what he had put together so far for the commission's review. There was discussion and suggestion for the City Attorney to review the sample American for the Arts contract document.

There was discussion about the Public Art program that was developed by past GHAC commissioner Chris Erlich similar to what the City of Puyallup has in place.

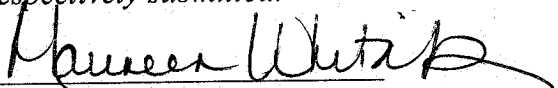
Mr. Sullivan asked that the commission be provided a map of the city's park sites at the next meeting.

VII. Public Comments

VIII. Adjournment

MOTION: Move to adjourn at 9:20 P.M. – Sullivan/Willis – unanimously approved.

Respectively submitted:


Maureen Whitaker