



## GIG HARBOR ARTS COMMISSION MINUTES

**DATE:** April 14, 2009  
**TIME:** 5:30 pm (meeting began at 5:37 pm)  
**LOCATION:** Executive Conference Room  
**SCRIBE:** Lita Dawn Stanton  
**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bob Sullivan, Michael Jones, Ron Carson, Tracy von Trotha, Dale Strickland, Karen Peck, Summer Lane Landry, Pat Rosenthal and Carola Stark  
**STAFF PRESENT:** Lita Dawn Stanton  
**MINUTES:** Approval of GHAC March 10<sup>th</sup> Minutes (Rosenthal / Stark)

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### *New Business*

#### 1. OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

##### DISCUSSION POINTS

E-mail communications between commissioners and City staff for the purpose of information sharing or clarification are appropriate. However, communications that solicit input for decision-making purposes that occur outside of a regularly scheduled public meeting are not appropriate and do not comply with the Open Public Meetings Act.

##### RECOMMENDATION / ACTION / FOLLOW-UP

Provide this information in the Arts Commission Manual for new commissioners.

#### 2. PLAQUES & PUBLIC ART

##### DISCUSSION POINTS

Last year the Commission approved the purchase of a bell sculpture "Ring in the Salmon" by Tom Torrens. The original sculpture was created for and auctioned at the 2008 "Salmon Enchanted Evening" event and sold to Connie and Ed Easley. Chairman Sullivan negotiated with the Easley's and the artist to create a limited edition of two which would allow the City to purchase a copy of the original for Donkey Creek Park. Chairman Sullivan agreed to commemorate the Easley's on a plaque that would be affixed to the sculpture. The owners (Easley's) and artist (Torrens) agreed upon the verbiage. The plaque is estimated to cost between \$150 to \$300 and will come from the Commission's Public Arts budget. Carson asked how art is acquired. Staff clarified that a Request for Proposals (RFP) could be initiated by the Arts Commission if funding for the proposed work is budgeted. Strickland asked who reviews the historic markers and if the Arts Commission should review all plaques. Staff clarified that typically, the plaque would be part of the review process but that the Torrens plaque was unusual.

##### RECOMMENDATION / ACTION / FOLLOW-UP

Staff will coordinate the plaque production and payment with the artist.

### 3. MAIN STREET & JERISICH PARK IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

#### DISCUSSION POINTS

On behalf of the Gig Harbor Historic Waterfront Association (GHHWA), Carola Stark explained GHHWA's effort to bring the Main Street approach to Gig Harbor. The objective of this approach is to bring economic vitality through preservation. Though not yet officially designated a "Mainstreet Community" by the State, as part of their work, the GHHWA Design Committee identified Jerisich Park improvements as an appropriate project that could enhance the downtown. Stark requested that GHHWA Design Committee be added to May's Agenda to be given an opportunity to present broad conceptual drawings to the Commission. The Committee will also present to the City's Operations Committee, Parks Commission and Design Review Board. One of the project's stated objectives is to relocate the utilities along the streetfront and create more open space with improved circulation.

Lane asked how the project would be funded. Stark stated that it could be a combination of sources including fundraising, and Public Works with in-kind labor. Lane asked who makes up the Design Committee. Stark responded that it is made of architects, store owners, business owners, and GHHWA board members. Other projects identified by the GHHWA include façade improvements to enhance the District from the Tides to Peacock Street. Sullivan reminded the Commission that Public Works Director Stubchaer suggested that the GHAC finance amenities like bike racks, signage and benches but that the Commission declined.

#### RECOMMENDATION / ACTION / FOLLOW-UP

Add the GHHWA Design Committee Presentation presentation by David Fisher to May's Agenda.

### 4. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

#### DISCUSSION POINTS

Sullivan presented his recommendation to the Commission that the chair and vice chair positions be appointed as part of a seniority system. Staff explained that this would be contrary to the Commission's existing bylaws that provide newly appointed Commissioners an opportunity to act in any position if elected by a majority of Commissioners.

#### RECOMMENDATION / ACTION / FOLLOW-UP

There was a brief discussion after which Sullivan was nominated and elected Chairman; Von Trotha was elected Vice Chair – both for a term of one year.

### *Old Business*

#### 1. DONKEY CREEK "RING IN THE SALMON" ART PLACEMENT

#### DISCUSSION POINTS

Staff will coordinate with the Torrens to inform the Commission of the placement date. Staff will also work with Lund in Marketing for new releases and interviews.

#### RECOMMENDATION

Notify the Commission to coordinate photos and "ribbon cutting" event.

2. PUBLIC ART MAP FOR WEBSITE

DISCUSSION POINTS

Create map of existing public art for the City's new website. Tracy von Trotha will take pictures of each piece once list is provided. Jones will help.

**RECOMMENDATION / ACTION / FOLLOW-UP**

Staff will provide list and location of public art for May's meeting.

3. BOGUE VIEWING PLATFORM ART

DISCUSSION POINTS

The Arts Commission and its current budget were listed as discussion items on City Council's upcoming workshop. The Bogue Project RFP was postponed until the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2009 because of the downturn in the economy.

**RECOMMENDATION / ACTION / FOLLOW-UP**

Staff will follow-up with City Administrator and report back to the Commission.

4. PUBLIC ART PLACEMENTS

DISCUSSION POINTS

Sullivan opened a discussion on the status of Art Placements in the City. Lane commented that art could be donated; Stark suggested a public/private partnership. Strickland commented that funding is difficult. Sullivan agreed that money has "dried up". Stark offered to initiate an article to promote the Arts Commission in conjunction with the Donkey Creek Placement. This would help educate the public on what the Arts Commission does. Sullivan estimated that the Commission has approximately \$65,000 left after deducting the Donkey Creek Salmon and the Bogue Viewing Platform budget.

**RECOMMENDATION / ACTION / FOLLOW-UP**

Stark to develop PR piece with Lauren Lund and include list of existing art placements. Staff will bring current Public Arts budget to the next meeting.

5. STUDENT ART FOR COVER OF ARTS COMMISSION POLICIES AND FORMS MANUAL

DISCUSSION POINTS

Peck explained that the art was done by high school student for the Peninsula Art League (PAL) Poster Contest. Out of 20 entries, six were chosen for PAL's summer art calendar. Peck facilitated the Commissioners to choose a Cover, three images to be used as dividers, and one image for the back of the manual. Artists' names will be included to acknowledge the student work.

**RECOMMENDATION / ACTION / FOLLOW-UP**

Staff will provide certificates of appreciation for each student for Peck to award.