



GIG HARBOR ARTS COMMISSION MINUTES

DATE: July 14, 2009
TIME: 5:30 pm (meeting began at 5:35 pm)
LOCATION: Executive Conference Room
SCRIBE: Lita Dawn Stanton
MEMBERS PRESENT: Bob Sullivan, Tracy von Trotha, Karen Peck, Michael Jones, Dale Strickland, Ron Carson, Pat Rosenthal, and Carola (Stark) Filmer (excused Summer Lane Landry)
STAFF PRESENT: Lita Dawn Stanton
MINUTES: Approval of GHAC June 9th Minutes (Filmer/Strickland)

New Business

1. JOINT PARKS MEETING

DISCUSSION POINTS

Sullivan reported that the Parks Commission wanted to discuss Welcome Signs (existing signage near the lighthouse at the harbor entrance / sandspit). Staff will confirm ownership of the sandspit (Pierce County or the City) for the next meeting. Strickland suggested that the Parks Commission be invited to an Arts Commission meeting to explain their intent and purpose. Jones asked if the Parks Commission understood that Laureen Lund handled signage for the City. Staff reported that Lund was invited to the meeting but had a prior commitment. Sullivan thought maybe Parks was referencing the concrete wall at the old Ferry Landing Park located at the Harborview Drive street end. Staff read an email circulated to Public Works from the Mayor in response to a question about controlling graffiti at the Ferry Landing by painting a mural on the concrete wall. He listed four points: limited budget, that it is a historic site, that a mural would detract from the natural setting and beauty of the entrance to the Bay and that based on comments from Chief Davis, a painted mural would not deter "taggers". The Mayor recommended painting out the existing graffiti "concrete gray" and coating the surface with a product for easy graffiti removal if tagged again.

RECOMMENDATION / ACTION / FOLLOW-UP

None

Old Business

1. PUBLIC ART PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

DISCUSSION POINTS

The Commission asked about the status of the Thunderbird Art placement at Eddon Boat. Strickland understood that the T-Bird project had "stalled". Sullivan reminded everyone that the Commission offered \$20,000 for the project but that the group declined this offer. Von Trotha reviewed last month's discussion to begin the Public Art Program by placing four pedestals around town. She suggested locating the pedestals evenly throughout the downtown for better visibility. The same locations (and others) were identified by the 2005 Arts Commission members during their public art program development process. The concept is to have artists donate art that could be purchased by the City for permanent placement. Von Trotha presented a map with four locations that included: the Old Ferry Landing, the Visitors Center on Judson, Eddon Boat near Stinson, and Austin Estuary Park or planter box at the sidewalk. (Austin Estuary Park restricts "ground-disturbing" activity because of its historic

association as a Native American site so pedestal placement must be in the upper 3 to 4-inches of soil.) The Commission agreed on von Trotha's proposed locations as being appropriate placements for the pedestals. Staff reminded the commission that the 2010 Art Grants were coming up again and that the process (moved back a month) starts in October to plan the workshop, RFP notices, etc. Peck asked if (since time is so limited) the commission could work outside their regular meetings? Staff responded that it could and Strickland proposed the formation of a sub-committee to work on refining a Public Art Program for review by the full Commission. Jones reminded the Commission not to over-look hanging art. He also commented that since times are tough, here's an approach that will not cost the City any additional money. As a first step, the Commission will ask for permission to fund and place pedestals only. They will be paid for out of the existing Arts budget. The current Arts Fund (after the Donkey Creek Torrens Bell is paid for) is approximately \$85,000. Staff reported that 2010 Budget meetings are underway and that cuts are being discussed. The Art Fund could be put back into the general fund if Council votes to do so. Carson suggested that the sub-committee define: how to apply, an application timeline, placement timeline, and purchase options. The final printed program description should be short and concise. Filmer will bring examples from other cities (Kennewick, Port Angeles, etc.).

RECOMMENDATION / ACTION / FOLLOW-UP

Carson, Sullivan, von Trotha, Strickland and Filmer to meet on Monday, July 27th to review Public Art Program developed by previous 2005 Arts Commission, update the mission statement and develop a simple draft program that can initiate pedestal placements.

2. PUBLIC ART AND PUBLIC WORKS

DISCUSSION POINTS

Filmer disbursed catalogs of pedestrian amenities (benches, bike racks, etc.) that can be kept on file and referenced when public works is considering placements in parks and public right-of-ways. These or similar designs could be fabricated by local artists.

RECOMMENDATION / ACTION / FOLLOW-UP

Staff to create binder of reference materials. The Commission agreed to continue collecting samples. Jones will forward images of Ray's Boathouse art.

3. JERISICH PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

DISCUSSION POINTS

Filmer reported that the Gig Harbor Historic Waterfront Association (GHHWA) Design Committee presentation to the Design Review Board was June 25th and that they unanimously endorsed the proposed improvements and relocation of the Fishermen's Memorial at Jerisich Park. The committee chair, David Fisher is finalizing plans in order to get cost estimates.

RECOMMENDATION / ACTION / FOLLOW-UP

Filmer will continue reporting on the project.

4. TORRENS "RING IN THE SALMON" AT DONKEY CREEK PARK

DISCUSSION POINTS

The sculpture has been sent for the final powder coating application. The Torrens expect delivery the second week of July. The Commission suggested combining the Ribbon Cutting event with other downtown activities in July. Filmer suggested a Thursday evening ArtWalk, July 30th is the tentative date.

RECOMMENDATION / ACTION / FOLLOW-UP

Staff will coordinate attendee availability (Mayor and Torrens) and confirm event date with Commissioners via email.

5. BOGUE VIEWING PLATFORM

DISCUSSION POINTS

Staff reported that with the economic downturn, City Council and administration are discussing ways to balance the 2010 Budget. Considerations include mandatory furloughs that will begin in 2009 and may include closing the Civic Center on a number of Fridays in 2010.

RECOMMENDATION / ACTION / FOLLOW-UP

The Bogue Viewing Platform RFP is on indefinite hold until further notice.

6. EDDON BOAT RESTORATION PROJECT BUILDING SIGN

DISCUSSION POINTS

Staff provided a preview of the contemporary style aluminum letters that will be mounted on the newly restored Eddon Boat Building. This material will be consistent with the proposed T-Bird sculpture. The proposed location of the T-Bird art (just off the street below the Harborview Drive sidewalk) has been changed to nearer the brick house on the grassy area because a pathway to the viewing platform has been constructed. Sullivan agreed that this would be a more prominent and appropriate placement.

RECOMMENDATION / ACTION / FOLLOW-UP

Staff will circulate the Ribbon Cutting date when confirmed.

7. PUBLIC ART INVENTORY MAP

DISCUSSION POINTS

Von Trotha described the map as a list of city-owned public art that could be expanded to include privately owned art pieces around the city. The map can be viewed on the website or printed. Staff provided a printed sheet of the most recent inventory of city-owned art objects, photography and hanging art. The Commission walked City Hall to view each object that was located throughout building and Jones photographed each piece.

RECOMMENDATION / ACTION / FOLLOW-UP

Jones will provide a CD to staff. Staff will organize the inventory and images for final Commissioner review prior to posting the list on the website.