



ARTS COUNCIL MINUTES NOVEMBER 14, 2018

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Rene Stratton at 6:34 pm at the Mercer Island Community & Event Center, 8236 SE 24th St., Mercer Island, WA 98040.

Roll Call

Members Present: Candace Chuck, Erik Gordon (arrived at 6:35 pm), Matt Lome (excused at 7:30 pm), Jessica Prince, Damian Schwiethale, Xixi Shakes, Rene Stratton, An Tootill (arrived at 6:35 pm), Gaylene Vaden, and Erin Vivion

Members Absent: Amy Barnes

City Council: Deputy Mayor Salim Nice absent

MIVAL Liaison: Claudia Zimmerman

Staff: Diane Mortenson and Sarah Bluvus

Appearances: None

Minutes:

It was moved by Prince; seconded by Chuck to:

Approve the minutes as presented.

Passed 10-0

FOR: 10 (Chuck, Gordon, Lome, Prince, Schwiethale, Shakes, Stratton, Tootill, Vaden, Vivion)

ABSENT: 1 (Barnes)

2018 Budget Report

Bluvus reported on the 2018 operational budget to actual/pending expenses. As of November 12, \$758.44 remains in the Arts Council's 2018 operational budget.

Update on Park Projects – Paul West, Parks Operations Superintendent

Aubrey Davis Park Master Plan: West presented an overview of the Aubrey Davis Park Master Plan process and timeline, which kicked off earlier in 2018 and will continue into 2019. He reminded members to attend the public forum on the arts, which takes place Thursday, November 29, at 6 pm, at the Mercer Island Community & Event Center.

Luther Burbank Dock & Plaza Project: West also presented about a project to repair the Luther Burbank docks/plaza and requested that the Arts Council consider repairing the *Handsome Bollards* public art installation in conjunction with the dock/plaza repair. Bluvus and West met with Artsite, a firm the City uses for art maintenance and conservation, and awaits a preliminary assessment of needs for the installation.

Update on Town Center Development RFQ Process – Staff

Bluvas and Jessi Bon shared that the City selected two developer finalists for the proposed development at the former Tully's site in Town Center. The finalists will present to City Council on Monday, November 26. Bon also reiterated that the planning and design phase for the proposed development will not begin until the spring.

Public Art Topics – Staff

1% for Art in Public Places Fund: Bluvas led an exercise to clarify any lingering questions about the 1% for Arts fund.

Public Art Story Map: GIS completed the Public Art Story Map, and staff developed an internal process to update the story map and associated master list going forward. Bluvas plans to cancel the City's Collector Systems account, effective at the end of the year, to avoid duplication of systems to manage the public art collection. Please send any errors, edits, questions, etc., regarding the story map to Bluvas.

4Culture Creative Consultancy: 4Culture received more than 80 consultant applicants for this pilot grant program. Staff and Arts Council members reviewed the applications and decided on three consultant candidates to interview. Bluvas, Mortenson, West, Prince, and Vivion will conduct interviews on Friday, November 16. They will update the group on takeaways and next steps at the December meeting.

Update Following the Levy Failure – Jessi Bon, Parks & Recreation Director

Bon updated the Arts Council about impacts to the Parks & Recreation department following the failure of 2018 Proposition 1: Levy Lid Lift. Staff will continue to update the Arts Council as information is available.

Chair Report – Rene Stratton

Mercer Island Gallery Wall Renovations: Barnes e-mailed Chair Stratton, Vivion, and Bluvas to request that the Arts Council revisit the decision to support wall renovations in the Mercer Island Gallery using money from the 1% for Arts fund (Passed 10-0, June 13, 2018).

It was moved by Vivion; seconded by Tootill to:

Rescind the June 13 vote to repaint the Mercer Island Gallery walls for further discussion.

Passed 10-0

FOR: 10 (Chuck, Gordon, Lome, Prince, Schwiethale, Shakes, Stratton, Tootill, Vaden, Vivion)

ABSENT: 1 (Barnes)

The group discussed reasons for maintaining financial support for the wall renovations and reasons for withholding financial support for the wall renovations.

Reasons For:

- The Arts Council has a responsibility to maintain public artworks and the art spaces it manages on the Island.
- The Mercer Island Gallery is one of the primary art spaces managed by the Arts Council, and the group has worked to raise the profile of the gallery in recent years. Ensuring that the appearance of the space is well-maintained will further enhance the gallery.
- The Parks & Recreation department does not have funds available for gallery maintenance.

Reasons Against:

- Funds may be needed for other projects, such as the *Handsome Bollards* restoration, and the Arts Council doesn't currently have a timeline in place to plan for projects.

- The Arts Council needs more information about the current fund balance and projected revenues for the fund in 2019-2020.

Other comments:

- The Arts Council should avoid the appearance of “doing too much” when possible; any new projects related to the 1% for Arts program should be more spaced out over time given resources, staff/volunteer capacity, and ability to build awareness about projects.

It was moved by Tootill; seconded by Prince to:

Reinstate approval to use the 1% for Art in Public Places fund to repaint the Mercer Island Gallery walls in 2020.

Passed 5-4

FOR: 5 (Gordon, Prince, Shakes, Stratton, Tootill)

AGAINST: 4 (Chuck, Schwiethale, Vaden, Vivion)

ABSENT: 2 (Barnes, Lome)

Literary – Erik Gordon

Classics on Film: Aljoja hosts four more film screenings this year.

- November 16: *Dangerous Moves* (sponsored in partnership with the Mercer Island Sister City Association)
- November 30: *The Chess Players*
- December 7: *The Seventh Seal*
- December 14: *Queen of Katwe*
 - Lance Rhoades confirmed that both students from the film will attend this screening.

Community Relations – Damian Schwiethale, Chair

No report.

Mostly Music in the Park –Jessica Prince, Co-Chair

2019 Selection Committee: Prince and Lome have begun soliciting bands for the 2019 series and request Arts Council members to participate on the selection committee, which will convene in January or February 2019 to evaluate

Public Art – Erin Vivion, Chair

- Vivion shared insights from the 2018 Art Law Institute, hosted by Washington Lawyers for the Arts.

Gallery – Amy Barnes, Chair

No report.

Special Projects – An Tootill, Chair

ideaX @ Mercer Island Library: The ideaX series wrapped on Saturday, November 10. More than 40 people attended the final workshop about learning the ukulele. Tootill will follow-up with Vicki Heck at the Library for results/takeaways from the series and partnership.

Arts Council Resignation: Tootill plans to step down from the Arts Council following the December meeting.

MIVAL Liaison – Claudia Zimmerman

No report.

Other Business

No other business.

Staff Report – Sarah Bluvus and Diane Mortenson

SeaJAM Festival: Bluvus asked for volunteers to attend performances during the SeaJAM Festival, December 8-9, and represent the Arts Council during the Festival. She recorded the following volunteers:

- Saturday, December 8 – Opening Night with Abraham Inc., 6:30 pm
 - Prince
 - Vivion
- Sunday, December 9 – The LeeVees, 1 pm
 - Prince
- Sunday, December 9 – birds sing a pretty song, 5 pm
 - Schwiethale
 - Chuck
 - Shakes
- Sunday, December 9 – Cathy Ladman, 6:30 pm
 - Gordon
 - Stratton
 - Vaden
 - Tootill

Bluvus will prepare promotional materials for the sponsor table and deliver to Pamela Lavitt. She will also follow-up with more information about issuing tickets.

December Meeting: The Arts Council will hold a short regular meeting and then host a social gathering to the end the year in December. Chair Stratton will send more information about what to bring to the gathering.

Adjournment

Chair Stratton adjourned the meeting at 8:48 pm.