



ARTS COUNCIL MINUTES SEPTEMBER 12, 2018

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Rene Stratton at 6:32 pm at the Mercer Island Community & Event Center, 8236 SE 24th St., Mercer Island, WA 98040.

Roll Call

Members Present: Amy Barnes, Erik Gordon, Matt Lome (arrived at 6:40 pm), Damian Schwiethale, Xixi Shakes, Rene Stratton, An Tootill, and Erin Vivion (arrived at 6:50 pm)

Members Absent: Candace Chuck, Jessica Prince, and Gaylene Vaden

City Council: Deputy Mayor Salim Nice

MIVAL Liaison: Claudia Zimmerman

Staff: Jessi Bon, Diane Mortenson, and Sarah Bluvus

Chair Stratton introduced Jessi Bon, the new director of Mercer Island Parks & Recreation, and asked to move the Minutes review before appearances while waiting for Pamela Lavitt to arrive.

Minutes:

It was moved by Barnes; seconded by Tootill to:

Approve the minutes as presented.

Passed 6-0

FOR: 6 (Barnes, Gordon, Schwiethale, Shakes, Stratton, Tootill)

ABSENT: 5 (Chuck, Lome, Prince, Vaden, Vivion)

Appearances: Pamela Lavitt, Director of Arts+Ideas & Seattle Jewish Festival, Stroum Jewish Community Center

Lavitt presented about the new SeaJAM Festival hosted by SJCC and, with Schwiethale, answered questions about a proposal for the Arts Council to financially support the inaugural festival.

It was moved by Tootill; seconded by Gordon to:

Provide monetary support to the 2018 SeaJAM Festival.

Passed 8-0

FOR: 8 (Barnes, Gordon, Lome, Schwiethale, Shakes, Stratton, Tootill, Vivion)

ABSENT: 3 (Chuck, Prince, Vaden)

It was moved by Lome; seconded by Gordon to:

Provide up to \$2,500 in financial support for performances that take place on Mercer Island during the SeaJAM Festival.

Passed 8-0

FOR: 8 (Barnes, Gordon, Lome, Schwiethale, Shakes, Stratton, Tootill, Vivion)

ABSENT: 3 (Chuck, Prince, Vaden)

Background on Greta Hackett Name Dedication – An Tootill

Following the discussion of the Greta Hackett Outdoor Gallery signage at the August 2018 meeting, Tootill provided context about the name dedication.

Budget Report – Sarah Bluvas

Bluvas reported on the 2018 operational budget to actual/pending expenses. As of September 10, 2018, \$5,670.90 remains in the Arts Council's 2018 operational budget.

Chair Report – Rene Stratton

Review of 2018 Goals & Priorities: In the interest of time, Stratton postponed this discussion. She and Bluvas will create a worksheet to send for preparation for future meetings.

Other: The 2018 Town Center banners have started going up. Bluvas will work with the Mercer Island Chamber of Commerce to schedule an "up-close" exhibit of the banners.

Special Projects – An Tootill, Chair

ideaX – Stop Motion Animation: ideaX kicks off Saturday, September 15, 1-3 pm at Mercer Island Library. Marketing/promotion has included:

- Posting flyers (MIVAL, the Boys & Girls Club, park kiosks, and the Community Center)
 - Bluvas will check with the Library about creating a new flyer just for 3D Pens (Saturday, October 13)
- Online calendar listings (*Mercer Island Reporter*, City of Mercer Island, Mercer Island Library, Red-Tri, and ParentMap)
- Social media posts

West Mercer Way Mural: Artist Rachel Holloway will finish the mural this week. Bluvas will share details about a public event at the October meeting.

Mostly Music in the Park – Matt Lome Co-Chair

- The last MMIP concert on Friday, August 24, with the Infinity Project and food trucks was a success.
- Lome, Prince, Bluvas, and Joy Leichty plan to meet soon to evaluate the 2018 series and begin planning for the 2019 season.

Public Art – Erin Vivion, Chair

- The Arts & Culture Comprehensive Plan amendments passed through Planning Commission last week. City Council will begin reviewing on October 2.
- The group discussed ways to educate the community about the Arts Council and its activities. These include:
 - Deliver a short statement during the City Council's Arts & Culture Study Session on Monday, September 17
 - Shakes, Chair Stratton, and Vivion volunteered to draft a statement for Vivion to give
 - Add a FAQs page to the Arts Council website
 - Bluvas will start working on this
- Vivion also presented an opportunity to bring cellist Kate Kayaian to Mercer Island in October. The Arts Council decided not to pursue the program due to lack of time to market/promote the event.

Gallery – Amy Barnes, Chair

- The exhibit by the Puget Sound Sumi Artists was a huge success. Eight artists sold 11 works of art, for a total of \$2,629 in sales (\$1,971.75 paid to artists/\$657.25 paid to the gallery).
- The Northwest Collage Society exhibit runs from September 10 to October 26. Barnes encouraged everyone to attend the reception tomorrow, Thursday, September 13, 6:30-8 pm.
- All Arts Council members are asked to participate in the last gallery hanging on Saturday, October 27. Barnes will remind everyone about the “MIVAL Work Party” at the October meeting.

Literary – Erik Gordon, Chair

- The Classics on Film series kicks off on Friday, September 15, at 7 pm at Aljoia.
- Gordon is working on building new/strengthening partnerships for Literary programs
 - He and Bluvas met with Laurie Raisys from Island Books last month; the bookstore is open to new ideas for programming, so the Arts Council should look to 2019 for opportunities.
 - Gordon and Bluvas meet with Vicki Heck at the Mercer Island Library tomorrow, September 13.

Community Relations – Damian Schwiethale, Chair

- He continues to reach out to area arts organizations to learn about their programs and explore opportunities for collaboration.

MIVAL Liaison – Claudia Zimmerman

- *Photos for Fido* is on view at the MIVAL Gallery through September 28.
- The MIVAL Holiday Show opens at the Mercer Island Gallery on Monday, October 29.
- Bluvas will add Zimmerman to the Agenda going forward.

Other Business

No other business.

Staff Report – Sarah Bluvas and Diane Mortenson

- Bluvas received the list of consultant applicants who applied for the 4Culture Creative Consultancy program. Next, staff and Vivion will review applications and select up to five consultants with whom to schedule a conversation.
- Committee chairs should be on the lookout for an invite from Bluvas to connect one-on-one about their programs/areas.
- Bluvas reminded everyone to check their City of Mercer Island e-mail accounts and to report volunteer hours to her each month.

Final Comments

Chair Stratton and Barnes both expressed excitement about the Arts Council’s upcoming programs and feel like this group has a lot of momentum.

Adjournment

Chair Stratton adjourned the meeting at 8:26 pm.

Rene Stratton, Chair

Attest: Sarah Bluvas, Scribe