



ARTS COUNCIL MINUTES AUGUST 8, 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: Amy Barnes, Candace Chuck, Erik Gordon, Jessica Prince, Damian Schwiethale, Xixi Shakes, Rene Stratton, An Tootill, and Erin Vivion

Members Absent: Matt Lome and Gaylene Vaden

City Council: Deputy Mayor Salim Nice

MIVAL Liaison: Claudia Zimmerman absent

Staff: Diane Mortenson and Sarah Bluvas

Appearances: None

Minutes:

It was moved by Barnes; seconded by Schwiethale to:

Approve the July 11, 2018 minutes.

Passed 9-0

FOR: 9 (Barnes, Chuck, Gordon, Prince, Schwiethale, Shakes, Stratton, Tootill, Vivion)

ABSENT: 2 (Lome, Vaden)

Budget Report – Sarah Bluvas

Bluvas reported on the 2018 operational budget to actual/pending expenses. As of August 6, 2018, the Arts Council has \$6,648.07 remaining in its 2018 operational budget.

Chair Report – Rene Stratton

Extra Funds for Art UnCorked: Chair Stratton presented a request for additional funds to support performances at the Mercer Island Chamber of Commerce's Art UnCorked event on Friday, September 7.

It was moved by Gordon; seconded by Prince to:

Approve the request for an additional \$300 to support live performances at Art UnCorked.

Passed 7-1-1

FOR: 7 (Barnes, Chuck, Gordon, Prince, Shakes, Stratton, Vivion)

AGAINST: 1 (Schwiethale)

ABSTAINED: 1 (Tootill)

ABSENT: 2 (Lome, Vaden)

Other updates:

- Chair Stratton reminded all members to get involved with committees and/or current projects and events.

- She also introduced a desire to review the Arts Council's goals and priorities as outlined on the website, in the organizational manual, etc. Bluvas will send out several current documents with different iterations of the goals and priorities for review and discussion at the next meeting.
- She and staff continue to work with the 2018 Street Banner project artist and the company fabricating the banners to ensure colors are correct and suitable. The banners should go into production in the next couple of weeks.

Special Projects – An Tootill, Chair

- Production on the West Mercer Way mural began on Monday, August 6, 2018.
- Tootill requested that staff plan a ribbon-cutting celebration after the mural is completed and consider delaying the unveiling for the 2018 Street Banner project to the fall. Bluvas will work with the budget and calendar to determine what is feasible.
- Thoughts on promoting ideaX, which begins September 15 at the Mercer Island Library, are appreciated.

Mostly Music in the Park – Matt Lome, Co-Chair

No report.

Public Art – Erin Vivion, Chair

- Vivion and Bluvas requested ideas for updating the Arts Council's project profile for the 4Culture Creative Consultancy program. Suggestions included:
 - Partnering with a performance artist to create new arts experiences downtown
 - Incorporating an artist's perspective in the existing MICA visioning process
 - Reimagining the Greta Hackett Outdoor Sculpture Gallery and integrating into other planning processes (Aubrey Davis Park master plan, Sound Transit, etc.)

It was moved by Barnes; seconded by Schwiethale to:

Amend the Arts Council's 4Culture Creative Consultancy project profile to focus on showcasing the Greta Hackett Outdoor Sculpture Gallery and integrating it into future developments in the area.

Passed 9-0

FOR: 9 (Barnes, Chuck, Gordon, Prince, Schwiethale, Shakes, Stratton, Tootill Vivion)

ABSENT: 2 (Lome, Vaden)

Vivion will work with Bluvas to update the online profile, and Bluvas will connect with other City staff about collaborating on other processes.

Gallery – Amy Barnes, Chair

Mercer Gallery updates:

- The Puget Sound Sumi Artists reception was small but successful, and the zither musician added an authentic element to the event. Artwork is already selling well.
- The next show by the Northwest Collage Society will be installed on Saturday, September 8. Barnes will solicit volunteers to assist with hanging via e-mail.
- Nothing new has developed with the ability to serve wine at receptions.

Literary – Erik Gordon, Chair

- He plans to meet with Laurie at Island Books to discuss renewing a partnership for Meet the Author and other literary arts events.

Community Relations – The Arts Council still needs a member to lead community relations and outreach efforts.

Other Business

Review of Project Support Rubric: Schwiethale and Chair Stratton revised the evaluation rubric presented at the July meeting but decided to table the discussion until the Arts Council redefines its goals/priorities.

Staff Report – Sarah Bluvas and Diane Mortenson

Greta Hackett Outdoor Sculpture Gallery Signage: The Arts Council discussed a new draft of a sign for the Greta Hackett Outdoor Sculpture Gallery. Staff will continue to work with Fossil Graphics to tweak design and bring a new draft to the September meeting.

GIS Story Map: The Arts Council reviewed a draft of a Story Map created by the City's GIS department. This website can serve as a collection-management tool as well as provide public-facing access to information about the City's public art collection. Bluvas collected feedback about navigability to share with GIS and will include the Arts Council in future conversations as this tool evolves.

Other updates:

- The meeting about updating City Board/Commission codes and policies was postponed until mid-August. Bluvas will report back as changes develop that will impact the Arts Council.
- Bluvas provided an outline of staff liaison priorities related to the Arts Council work plan for the rest of 2018.

Adjournment

Chair Stratton adjourned the meeting at 8:13 pm.

Rene Stratton, Chair

Attest:

Sarah Bluvas, Scribe