



# ARTS COUNCIL MINUTES

## MAY 9, 2018

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### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Joy Langley, at 6:34 pm at the Mercer Island Community & Event Center, 8236 SE 24<sup>th</sup> St., Mercer Island, WA 98040

### Roll Call

*Members Present:* Joy Langley, Amy Barnes, Matt Lome, Rene Stratton, An Tootill, Joy Liechty, Jessica Prince, Xixi Shakes and Erin Vivion.

*Members Absent:* June Silverberg

*City Council:* City Council Member Salim Nice

*MIVAL Liaison:* Claudia Zimmerman

*Staff:* Diane Mortenson and Eileen Hemmis Trifts

### Appearances:

Robert Fahrer, PhD, Mercer Island Resident

Literary Program Proposal

Dr. Fahrer and his colleague Dr. Doug Thorpe have been offering a presentation featuring "Beowulf" for the past few years, and would like to offer a similar program on Mercer Island this fall or winter. He suggested the program be offered on two Saturdays for about 3 hours per meeting. Participants would be asked to read J.R.R. Tolkien's new translation of the epic poem by Seamus Heaney. They would then spend several hours each week reading assigned parts and immersing themselves in the legend by reading discussing and exploring the beginning of Christianity and decline of the pagan in northern Europe.

In discussion following the presentation by Dr. Fahrer, the Arts Council felt considering the religious aspect of this offering, they would like to make it more inclusive by offering additional cultural programming along with it.

Chair Joy Langley stated that she would like to see the council determine the rubric for how they approach this type of programming before making a plan. She asked that they table the topic for now, moving it to next month's agenda for further discussion.

### Minutes:

Rene Stratton requested an amendment to the April 11, 2018 minutes, page 2, the last item under Special Projects. After the word Banners: insert "Rene Stratton reported that..." **Jessica Prince motioned that the minutes be approved as amended. The motion was seconded and passed.**

**Amended Agenda:** Prior to continuing with the reports, Chair Langley asked for approval to add the following items to the agenda:

#### Under Chair Report

~ Comprehensive Plan Update

~ Creative Plan Update

~ Next City Council Meeting

~ Staff Update

~ Literary Chair Appointment

Vice Chair Report, Rene Stratton

Under Special Projects  
~ Idea-X Vote

The amendments were approved by a voice vote.

**Chair Report – Joy Langley**

Comprehensive Plan Update: A postcard is being sent out to the community by the city with information on what has been done to complete the comp plan. The craft comp plan is going to the Planning Commission.

Certified Creative District Update: Erin Vivion and Joy Langley continue to work on this. It is about half way there.

L.A.A. Meeting: Reminder...it will be hosted by the Arts Council at the Community & Event Center beginning at 9:30 am on Thursday, May 24.

Next City Council Meeting: On the consent calendar (1) approval of panelist's for the street banners and (2) the 2018 Work Plan. Final Copies of the Work Plan and Annual Report were distributed.

Literary Chair: Rene Stratton has put her name forward to chair the literary committee. **Joy Langley nominated Rene as Literary Chair. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

Staff Update: Diane Mortenson reported that Sarah Bloovis, the new Arts Coordinator, starts on June 7, and will be at the June meeting.

**Vice Chair Report – Rene Stratton**

Rene distributed copies of the Street Banner Design Competition that will be going before the City Council. She hopes the committee will be able to meet on May 22 to make their selection so she should have it for the next meeting.

**Special Projects, An Tootill, Chair**

Idea-X: In follow-up to last month's discussion on sponsoring two or three mobile maker's place programs at the Mercer Island Library, An presented the available choices. Out of 15 choices, the Arts Council voted, and the top three choices were: (1) 3D Printing Pens, (2) Stop Motion, and (3) Ukulele. An will advise 4Culture of their choices. She would like to do them in September. A reservation for the library conference room will need to be made.

**Mostly Music in the Park – Joy Liechty, Chair**

Joy stated that her term on the Arts Council is ending in May and she plans to move onto a new area of interest. She would like to assure continuity for the 2018-2019 MMIP series. She nominated Matt Lome, who has been very involved in this year's process, to replace her. Matt suggested a co-chair. Jessica Prince said she would be comfortable with the administrative end if Matt will match his past efforts. They agreed to co-chair MMIP. **Chair, Joy Langley, called for a vote. It passed unanimously.** Joy Liechty will remain on the committee to assist through the 2018 season.

**Public Art, Erin Vivion, Chair**

No Report.

**Gallery, Amy Barnes, Chair**

Amy thanked Rene, Jessica and Claudia for their assistance hanging the NWWWS Exhibit. She reported that they were unable to use the wall facing the front entrance, as the Community Center is planning to put up information/distribution racks. However, this has been temporarily set aside, and Amy will be meeting with the Community Center Manager and Recreation Superintendent to see if a compromise or alternative plan can be reached.

Upcoming Exhibit – BIAWA: Any stated that she may send out a request for volunteers to help hang the next exhibit on June 2. The reception is 5:30 to 7:00 pm on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

Arts Council Online Presence: Amy asked if what we have on the website can be extended. Diane responded that it certainly could. She recommended forming a subcommittee to look at Arts Council Website and determining what could be improved. For example additional webpages they might like to add as well as links to other art organizations and events on the island.

### **Staff Report: Diane Mortenson**

#### Repair and Re-installation of Public Art Sculpture “Thanks”, Greta Hackett Sculpture Gallery

Diane reported that it is time to think about the future of this piece. It is leaning. It was installed improperly. With Sound Transit construction, it could be a good time to look at moving and reinstalling some of the pieces in the sculpture garden.

2019-2020 Budget Planning: Diane stated that the budget for 2019-2020 needs to be allocated by June 30. She asked them to think about what they want to increase. Strengthening the advertising and marketing budget was one thing determined at the retreat. Additional items should be sent to Chair, Joy Langley, who will keep a running list and work with a subcommittee to present something at the June meeting. Anyone interested in being a part of the subcommittee should let Joy know.

Use of 1% for arts funds to paint gallery walls: Diane asked the Arts Council their thoughts on spending about \$30,000 from the 1% for the Arts fund to paint the gallery walls. Joy Langley recommended that everyone think on it and that it be put on the June agenda for a vote.

Arts Council Logo: Diane suggested that the Arts Council consider updating their logo. General consensus was that it needs to be updated. Diane said she can task someone on staff with finding graphic artists, etc.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:24 PM

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Joy Langley, Chair

Attest:

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Eileen Hemmis Trifts, Scribe