



ARTS COUNCIL MINUTES

APRIL 11, 2018

Call to Order

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

Roll Call

Members Present: Joy Langley, Amy Barnes, Matt Lome, Rene Stratton, An Tootill and Erin Vivion.

Members Absent: Joy Liechty, Jessica Prince, Xixi Shakes and June Silverberg

City Council: City Council Member Salim Nice

MIVAL Liaison: Claudia Zimmerman

Staff: Bruce Fletcher and Eileen Hemmis Trifts

Appearances:

Natalya Ageyeva, Artistic Director, Russian Music Foundation of Seattle and Mercer Island Resident.

Natalya presented the history and an update on the Russian Music Foundation on Mercer Island. She stated that though they were not funded by the Arts Council this year, they are still planning to do a concert in the park. She requested that the Arts Council consider funding them again next year.

Chair Joy Langley said that she would share information on 4Culture grants that may be available to their organization, and that the Arts Council will revisit it again next year.

Minutes:

Amy Barnes motioned to approve the minutes of March 14, 2018 as submitted. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Chair Report - Joy Langley

Sound Transit Update: Gateway Art Pieces

Joy announced that Sound Transit has revisited their plan to move the Gateway art pieces. They have determined that they will not move the pieces and stated that the work on the transit station will not disturb the art or the planting area around it.

Communication Update:

Joy announced that the city has set up city email accounts for members of the Arts Council. A form was distributed for members to indicate a password. Once the passwords have been linked, each Arts Council member will receive an internet link to the City's Office 365 website. Using their password, they will then be able to access their email via the internet.

Draft Comprehensive Plan:

Joy and Erin presented an updated Draft Comprehensive Plan to the Arts Council for their comment and consideration. The update has been fleshed out considerably. Images have been added and the document has been reformatted.

Additional fine-tuning was suggested. Salim Nice, Joy Langley and Erin Vivion will work together to incorporate tonight's suggestions in order to submit the final document to the City Manager in one week.

Rene Stratton motioned that the Arts Council affirms that this document encapsulates the sentiment of this body, which is to support it. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Certified Creative District Update:

Chair Joy Langley stated that a planning document has been drafted, which she will share with anyone that is interested. The idea is that MIAC will drive the activity, but will do it in partnership with a number of other organizations. We have a lot of ideas, but it will ultimately be up to the planning committee. Prospective members of the planning committee include MICA, MIVAL, YTN, FAAC, MI School District, MI Chamber, this body, YFS, realtors, developers, City Council and other organizations on the island. The goal is to apply to become a Certified Creative District.

Staffing Update: Parks Director Bruce Fletcher and Admin Eileen Hemmis Trifts are both retiring. Friday, April 20, is Bruce's last day. The May meeting will be Eileen's last.

Special Projects, An Tootill, Chair

West Mercer Mural: Scheduled to be painted in August. The West Mercer street sign needs to be moved to the top of the wall. She asked that the new staff liaison address this.

IdeaX: A permanent "maker space" is opening at the Bellevue Library this weekend. The library system has been promoting a mobile unit with 12 different high-tech kits. An suggested that the Arts Council offer to sponsor two or three at the Mercer Island Library. The cost is nothing to the user at this time. It will require promotion on the Arts Council's part. She will send out a list of what is available for discussion at the May meeting. The only other requirement would be to reserve the Library's conference room.

Dairy Games: The dairy ruins at Luther Burbank Park are currently not being used for anything other than composting. The Historical Society is excited about the concept of reclaiming that part of the park for some game tables and perhaps a small garden. An stated that she had heard there were some game board tables on the island, but if so, she has been unable to locate them.

Orbits and Pieces: An reported that she is contacting Ames Research in CA to get permission to use the NASA logo and see if can get any publicity pieces about those pieces to explain why we should care about them.

Banners: The Call for Artists' is being posted on Friday. The selection committee is set to go before the City Council for approval, and the manufacturer has been chosen.

Mostly Music in the Park – Joy Liechty, Chair

Claudia Zimmerman, MIVAL Liaison, presented three paintings for the MMIP poster and mailer art for Arts Council consideration. The Arts Council voted by placing a mark on the board near their choice. The painting with the majority of votes was "Secrets" by Claudia Zimmerman.

Public Art, Erin Vivion, Chair

Erin reported on the March LAA meeting. 4Culture is moving along with their Site Specific Artists (now Site Specific Creative Consultancies) that we discussed at our retreat. A statement of purpose is due by June 8. Erin said she would like to move forward on this and asked for someone to work on it with her. Joy Langley said she would be interested in doing so. She suggested that Erin send a link with more information in an email for discussion at the May meeting. The Arts Council is scheduled to host the May LAA meeting.

Gallery, Amy Barnes, Chair

Amy reported that the Northwest Watercolor (NWWWS) show will be hung on Sunday, April 16. She asked for volunteers to help with hanging the show. Claudia Zimmerman, Rene Stratton and Jessica Prince volunteered. The NWWWS Artists' Reception will be held on April 26. Salim Nice asked the status of the Totem Pole that was going to be donated to the city. Joy suggested following up with Diane to see if they can schedule a field trip to see it.

Staff Report:

No Report

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 PM

Joy Langley, Chair

Attest:

Eileen Hemmis Trifts, Scribe