



ARTS COUNCIL MINUTES MARCH 9, 2016

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 pm by Chair, An Tootill.

Roll Call

Members Present: An Tootill, Karen Kaser, Linda Iwanyk, Joy Langley, Joy Liechty, Erin Vivion, and Suzanne Zahniser. Absent: Paulette Bufano, Allie Roodman and Rene Stratton

City Council:

Council Member Jeff Sanderson.

Staff:

Amber Britton and Eileen Hemmis Trifts

MIVAL Liaison:

Bob Still

Approval of Minutes:

Linda Iwanyk motioned to approve the regular Arts Council minutes of February 10, 2016 with the following amendment: Under Roll Call, Allie Roodman should be noted as absent as she was not in attendance at the February 10 meeting. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Appearances:

Manual R. Cawaling, Executive Director, Youth Theatre Northwest (YTN)

Arts Council member Suzanne Zahniser introduced Mr. Cawaling, indicating that his purpose in being here tonight is to give an update on Youth Theatre Northwest and its activities for the past year.

Mr. Cawaling spoke about the tremendous change that his organization has seen over the past several years. They lost their "home" and are temporarily located at Emanuel Episcopal Church. He said that they are very excited about their future home with MICA.

YTN continues to serve approximately 2,000 kids a year with 15,000 people coming to see their performances. Some of the programs this year include a production of Legally Blonde, a conservatory program for Harriet the Spy, Improv and Cabaret Groups and a presentation of Shrek with St. Monica's School. They continue to serve a range of age groups with auditions being held twice a year. Once in September for the school year season and again in March for Summerstock. YTN partners with Mercer Island Youth and Family Services to provide scholarships for Mercer Island residents.

Mr. Cawaling concluded by inviting Arts Council members to a production of Legally Blonde.

Chair Report:
An Tootill, Chair

West Mercer Mural Update: An reported that she has two scaled diagrams for the mural. It will now go to the City Council for approval then to a round of approvals with WSDOT before a Call for Artist is sent out. Amber will be preparing the proposal.

Outdoor Gallery:

An reported that the temporary signs are up. The permanent signs will be 1' off of the ground instead of 3' so as not to interfere with viewing of the artwork. She clarified that that even though each new piece will receive a new sign, we are not pulling the bronze plaques that serve as signage for pieces that are currently on display.

An asked if everyone has had a chance to walk through the OG and see "Thanks", the piece that is in need of repair. Amber reported that she has not heard back from the sculpture artist, but she will continue to try to reach him. The City Attorney has advised due diligence by roping off the leaning sculpture and warning the public to stay clear.

An said that "Thanks" was sold to the City by the Artist for about \$9,000 (part of a set for which the total was \$17,000) in 2001 after having been on display in the Outdoor Gallery. She felt \$10,000 is an exorbitant amount to pay to have the underlying structure repaired. Discussion continued about whether or not repairing the piece is the best way to go. Other ideas included

- Relocating it to a more suitable location.
- Determining whether or not the artist might be able to do something on our behalf and whether he might be able to do it for less.
- Sell or auction it off.
- Deaccession which would also have a cost associated with it as well as deciding what to do with it.

Whatever is decided, it will require approval from the Parks & Recreation Director as well as the City. It was decided wait to see if Amber is able to contact the artist and find out if he is willing to either take it back or to repair it for less than the quoted amount. In the meantime she will get a second quote from Artech, and research deaccession including the associated costs.

Indoor Gallery:

An stated that Linda Iwanyk is planning to leave the Arts Council when her term is up in May. A new chair will be needed. Linda advised that there are 7 shows a year with the most effort going into hanging the shows. There was no one that is interested in chairing the Indoor Gallery Committee, so An suggested several people share the load for the remainder of the year.

Members agreed to assist with hanging the following shows:

- NWWS (April 16): Linda Iwanyk (lead), Joy Leichty and Joy Langley
(Note: Date changed to April 17 since meeting)
- EAFA (June 4): An Tootill (lead)
- 5 Artists (July 23): Joy Langley (lead), Joy Leichty, and Erin Vivion
- Jose Orantes (September 10): Joy Leichty
- MIVAL (October 29): Joy Leichty

An noted that Rene Stratton and Allie Roodman, who are absent this evening, might be interested in taking the Gallery Chair position or assisting with shows where needed.

Amber stated that the artists usually drop off the work and it is hung by the Arts Council. We have been having difficulty getting volunteers to help hang the show so the artists have been tapped to help with hangings. NWWS is already planning to help with the hanging in April.

Mostly Music in the Park

Karen Kaser, Chair

MIVAL Liaison Bob Still presented three paintings for consideration this year's MMIP poster. The three pieces up for consideration were painted by Susan Kilka, Pat Howie and Lorri Falterman. The artwork chosen for this year was by Pat Howie. Bob will send Amber an electronic copy of the painting to be used on the poster and in the utility bill mailings.

The Arts Council requested that Pat Howie's artwork be available to be placed on display in the Mercer Island Community Center.

An Tootill made a motion that the Arts Council accept the MIVAL artwork to be displayed alongside the scheduled Evergreen Association of Fine Arts (EAFA) gallery show (June 6 through July 22). The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Karen Kaser brought up the Social Dance idea that was discussed at the March 5th Arts Council Retreat. She felt the VFW is the best venue, and indicated that a \$400 deposit would be required. She suggested a late January date. January 21 or 28.

An requested that Karen submit a formal proposal. It should contain costs, location, who will teach the dance steps, what band, what kind of music, set-up, ticket sales and take down at a minimum. Karen was concerned that since she is ending her term on the Arts Council in May, someone else might be better suited to take the lead. Karen said she is willing to assist. An thought this is something that could fall under Special Projects. Suzanne Zahniser volunteered to help with the dance, and would like to see a process document at the end of the program so the next person can see how it was done.

The following Arts Council members said they are willing to help with the dance:

Joy Leichty
Joy Langley
An Tootill
Erin Vivion
Suzanne Zahniser
Karen Kaser

Community Relations

Joy Langley, Chair

Joy reported that there are currently several grants available for application, and that there is a grant application teleconference on March 14. She will meet with Amber to determine Arts Council eligibility.

An reminded everyone about the 4Culture meeting on March 24th. As the Arts Council is hosting, she encouraged everyone to come. She would welcome any talking points for the meeting.

Indoor Gallery:

Linda Iwanyk, Chair

No report other than to remind everyone about the NWWS exhibit hanging in April.

Public Art:

Erin Vivion, Chair

Erin distributed her proposal for the Parkinson's Dance program.

An reported that Erin is going to take on the walking/biking tour art maps project.

Literary

Paulette Bufano, Chair

Joy Langley reported that she will be meeting with Island Books on Friday, March 11. She will report back to the Arts Council at the April meeting.

Staff Report:**Amber Britton**

Amber reported that the Spring/Summer Recreation Guide has been received and copies are available at the front desk. Registration starts online Monday, March 14.

Amber stated that she will send links of Summer Celebration options to Arts Council members, and a decision can be made at the April meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm

An Tootill, Chair

Attest:

Eileen Hemmis Trifts, Scribe