



ARTS COUNCIL MINUTES

DECEMBER 10, 2014

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm by Chair, Paulette Bufano.

Roll Call

Members Present: Paulette Bufano, Linda Iwanyk, Karen Kaser, An Tootill, and Erin Vivion. Absent: Anna Gordon, Suzanne Zahniser and Jack Emick

City Council:

Council Member Jane Meyer Brahm.

Staff:

Amber Britton, Staff Liaison

Bruce Fletcher, Director, Parks & Recreation Department

Appearances:

Jane Ditzler, former Arts Council member and Chair. Observer.

Bruce Fletcher, Director, Parks and Recreation Department

Update on Art Room at MICEC

Bruce came to tonight's meeting to give an update on efforts to find a way to provide an Art Room at the Community Center. He reported that the new budget allows for the development of a Community Center Master Plan. The plan will address the art room among other things that are changing in the community. He is looking for input from the Arts Council as to what they feel should be at the Community Center and who in the community should be tapped for their input. The Parks & Rec Subcommittee will compile a report and make recommendations to the City Council next year. He suggested that the new Park & Ride that is being considered next to the Community Center may be a source for 1% revenue which could give the option to build an addition to the Community Center. Bruce indicated that he will return with another update once the Master Plan is ready for review.

Approval of Minutes

Karen Kaser motioned to approve the regular Arts Council minutes of November 12, 2014 as presented. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Chair Report:

Chair, Paulette Bufano

Paulette reported that Jack Emick was recently approved as the newest Arts Council member. She also reported that Mireya Lewin resigned this month.

Paulette reported that Arts Council information on Channel 21 is very out of date. Jane Brahm stated that the City Council and School Board meetings are run twice a day, but in between older pieces are used as filler. Amber said that she will find out if out of date items can be taken down.

Literary:

Anna Gordon, Chair
No Report

Mostly Music in the Park (MMIP)

Karen Kaser, Chair

Karen wanted to know the budget for Russian Chamber Orchestra's performance in 2015. She stated that the suggested amount of \$1,000 seemed to be a reasonable amount to pay considering the sound system and the number of musicians. However, she would like to review the budget for this year's MMIP to determine whether or not that amount can be paid. As background, Amber stated that the Russian Chamber Orchestra was not originally a part of MMIP. In 2013 they wanted to do a performance at Luther Burbank Park, but didn't want to pay the rental fee, so agreed to do a performance for free under the auspices of the Arts Council in order not to pay a fee. The following year they wanted to perform again and asked the Arts Council to pay some of their expenses, which you did. This amounted to \$650.

Amber pointed out that a notable difference between MMIP performances and the Russian Chamber is that the Russian Chamber Orchestra passes the hat for the musicians. They didn't divulge how much they collected at last year's concert, but they did indicate that they made enough to make it worthwhile.

An pointed out that this group was adamant that they did not want to be a part of the MMIP program. She felt that if they do want to be part of MMIP, they should get on the roster. They would then be included in promotions and their fee can be budgeted in MMIP.

Amber will send the 2015 budget breakdown to Karen. She can then determine how many bands she can get for an allocated amount and then determine if there is \$1,000 to pay the Russian Chamber Orchestra.

Karen assured the Arts Council that everything is on track for solicitation for musicians for MMIP. She wondered if we could use musicians that submit recordings for Art Uncorked. Our task is to come up with the money to pay for musicians for this event, so we will want to work that into the MMIP budget. Jane Meyer Brahm stated that the date for Art Uncorked this year is September 11.

Karen said she will let Amber know the music screening meeting date in January so that she can let Jaymarc Homes know. As a sponsor, they have indicated an interest in participating in the band selection.

Indoor Gallery:

Linda Iwanyk, Chair

Linda reported that the MIVAL show will wrap up on December 19. Sales have been brisk. The next show will be hung on January 3 from noon to 6 pm. She will send out an email for volunteers. Paulette suggested that Ralph may be available, and that Sandy Glass has offered to assist in the gallery.

Public Art

An Tootill, Chair

An reported that she is meeting with an Artist from Oregon that the committee is considering for the outdoor gallery.

An asked if there might be some stored signs that were in the outdoor gallery prior to all of the downtown construction. Amber stated that at one time there was a brochure holder. She thought this could be put back up. She also reported that Eileen has finalized the sign new sign and is in the process of getting approvals. This new sign will have the ability to display a QR code and can be linked to the STQRY website. An said she would like to have a large sign at its entrance to identify the Outdoor Gallery in the near future.

Paulette reported that she and Karen Kaiser will be responsible for the kick off for the new additions to the outdoor gallery. An felt it should be a weekend event held during the day with as many people attending as possible. An would like the City Council to be onboard and downtown businesses to be a part of it.

An said that she is glad that the Mural project is being funded. She would like to go forward with getting a design.

An indicated that an email was received from a Mercer Island high school student who would like to work with the Arts Council to paint a mural in the unused wall space along I-90. He suggested something saying "Home of the Islanders" or "Mercer Island". He offered to get a group of art students to design it. An stated that WSDOT rules wouldn't allow for anything like this on the I-90 walls. However, she felt that there are plenty of downtown business parking lots that might be willing to do something. . An's response back to him will be to identify a wall other than the ones by the freeway and let him know that the Arts Council would be more supportive of a high school design that is not directly sports related.

Community Relations:

Chair, Vacant

No Report

Staff Report

Amber Britton

Amber reported that the deadline for the Spring/Summer Recreation Guide is December 29th. She suggested a bigger push for the Arts Council Juried Art Show. Amber said she already has the Shakespeare information and will soon have the Spring Film information as well. She asked members to let her know before the deadline if there is anything else they want included.

Amber reported that the budget was approved by the City Council so the Arts Council can move forward with the Mosaic Project and the West Mercer Way Mural.

Election of 2015 Chair and Vice Chair.

Amber reported that once the new Chair is elected, that person will spend the next month filling the committee chair positions. An Tootill nominated Paulette Bufano as Chair. Paulette Bufano nominated An Tootill as Vice-Chair. Both accepted the nominations and there were no additional nominations. A vote was taken by written ballot. Paulette was unanimously elected as Chair. An was unanimously elected as Vice Chair.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm

Paulette Bufano, Chair

Attest:

Eileen Hemmis Trifts, Scribe