

Minutes of the
City of Gig Harbor Arts Commission
March 14, 2006
7:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:

Renee Crist called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Roll was taken.

PRESENT: Commissioners Renee Crist, Lita Dawn Stanton, Mary Rae Lund, Betty Willis, Nancy Weaver, Karla Epperson, Del Woock and Kit Kuhn were in attendance. Absent: Chris Erlich. City Staff Lauren Lund was present and Maureen Whitaker took minutes of the proceedings.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The members read the minutes of the February 14, 2006, meeting.

MOTION: Approval of the February 14, 2006, meeting minutes as presented. Stanton/Willis – unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Rotary Pavilion – Progress Report: Renee reported that Lauren Lund had sent a press release to the Gateway regarding the progress on the medallion and a little background on the artist, Mardie Rees. There was discussion about Mardie Rees bringing her cement color samples to the next meeting. Lita reported that Mardie was completing the final casting last month. There was further discussion about Public Works assisting in the installation and Mardie was asked to provide the Public Works Department a week's notice before the installation.

2. Commission Member Recruiting: There was a brief discussion about the new process for selecting Commission members. The mayor had recently adopted a policy that the selection of any City of Gig Harbor Committees would involve an interview committee consisting of three council members and the GHAC chair. This selection committee will conduct interviews with those candidates that submitted a letter of interest. The interviews have been scheduled for March 29th. Four candidates submitted a letter of interest. A recommendation will be made to City Council at the next meeting on April 10th.

3. Grant Application Process Review: The Commission recommended that the following items be added to the grant application form for next year.

1. Add a space for the applicant to list the address and date of event.
2. Add a space for the applicant to list a responsible party and contact person.
3. Include map of Gig Harbor city limits with each grant application.

There was discussion about forming a committee that would draft a proposal to take to City Council that addresses the issue of the lack of venue within the city limits for performing arts, meeting/instructional rooms, and a location to display art. Included in this proposal should be some language that addresses that a certain portion of the grant applications were denied due to the venues being located outside of the city

limits. In this proposal, it was suggested that the GHAC be allowed the discretion of recommending grants for worthwhile civic causes due to lack of venue, which might have a performance outside the city limits but within the Urban Growth Area (UGA). There was discussion about pre-qualifying a venue, the costs of the facility, requirements and liability issues. It was agreed that it was next to impossible to grow the arts community without a Community Arts Center. It was also suggested in the proposal to clearly identify the number of grants that have been turned down based on venue location. Betty Willis, Mary Rae Lund and Karla Epperson volunteered to be on the committee.

4. Wood Carver Update: Mr. Del Hansen sent a revised proposal reflecting the additional costs for insurance and removing the scaffolding each day. The revised amount was too expensive to consider in light of these added costs and the maintenance responsibilities. Kit was in favor of thinking about it a little more due to the time involved in the process. Lita Dawn cautioned the Commission about spending \$3,100 on this type of art. Mary Rae thought that this money could be better spent on a piece for the opening of the bridge. Karla thought that a piece of art could be purchased as a welcoming to Gig Harbor. The Commission tossed around many ideas. Renee suggested that a letter be sent to Mr. Hansen, thanking him for all of his hard work and artistic ability. The Commission came to a consensus and made the decision not to proceed with the wood carving as proposed by Mr. Hansen.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Drawing You In Program – Lita Dawn Stanton: Lita Dawn said that she would follow-up the Commission's 2005 grant denial letter and call Doug Mitchie and ask if they wanted to help run this program. Lita Dawn stated that she would continue the program but would love to have Doug Mitchie's group be on board. Kit suggested that there be another call for grants later in the year since all funds were not awarded.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Tacoma Narrows Bridge Grand Opening – Laureen Lund, Tourism & Marketing Director: Tourism & Marketing Director Laureen Lund attended the meeting briefly to discuss her recent meeting with the state in regards to the Tacoma Narrows Bridge opening in April 2007. The theme for the opening was a community-wide theme, "Building Bridges". Laureen explained that this broad theme could encompass *Building Bridges, the Art of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge (TNB); the Economy of the TNB; the Environment of the TNB*, etc. and an opportunity for all of the different groups in the community to ~~X~~ get involved according to their interest. She asked the Commission to spend a little time over the next month thinking about how the Commission would like to be involved. She suggested the idea of the Commission sponsoring street banners that would be hung for a 6-month period of time. The banners could have the bridge design with the City's logo and maybe say, "Building Bridges." Laureen said that once she receives approval from City Council, she would have more information to share. She said that the state tourism office has put together some statistics that they are hoping to get some additional media attention for.

- The first suspension bridge built since 1964.
- The first waterway in the United States that has had three spans across it.

- The only bridge that spans a Puget Sound waterway – all of the other bridges span rivers, gorges or lakes.

Lita Dawn asked Laureen if both bridges would have separate names to avoid the East/Westbound confusion. Laureen said that she would check on this.

There was further discussion about how these street banners could be funded in 2007 and the Commission agreed that this seemed more like a tourism event. There was discussion about creating a program for artists to compete for a bridge theme for the banners. Betty asked if the banners welcoming tourists to Gig Harbor with the bridge theme could be a permanent banner or were the banners solely for the bridge opening and only hung for a 6-month period.

2. 2006/2007 Year GHAC Calendar: Renee prepared a new calendar – Maureen forgot to print it for the meeting. Maureen stated that she will email the calendar to the Commission members tomorrow.

3. Farewell to Outgoing Commission Members: Renee presented to the outgoing Commission members, Lita Dawn Stanton, Chris Erlich, and Nancy Weaver a certificate of appreciation and a heartfelt thanks for the many years of dedication and “growing” the GHAC. They will be sorely missed.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

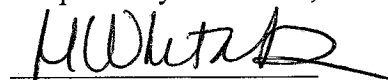
NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

April 11, 2006 at 7:00 P.M.

ADJOURN:

MOTION: Move to adjourn at 8:10 P.M. – Stanton/Lund – unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Maureen Whitaker