



The City Of Gig Harbor Arts Commission

Minutes of the Gig Harbor Arts Commission Meeting, Tuesday May 9, 2006

Call to Order/Roll

The meeting was called to order by Chair Betty Willis at 7:10 PM

Present: Betty Willis, Renee Crist, Mary Rae Lund, Kit Kuhn, Karla Epperson, Carolyn Arnold, Sally Dutton, Bob Sullivan. Absent Excused: Del Woock, City Staff Maureen Whitaker

Welcome to new Commissioner Bob Sullivan and introductions of members.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the April 11, meeting were read.

MOTION: Approval of the April 11, meeting as presented 2nd Crist/Epperson Approved.

Budget:

The Budget was reviewed and discussed by the committee.

Old Business

“Drawing You In” Program - Renee reported that she had been in touch with former Commissioner Lita Dawn Stanton regarding the status of the 2006 “Drawing You In” program. Lita had reported via email that she had met with the Peninsula Art League who agreed to take over the management of the program. The PAL Board elected Doug Michie to chair the committee. The GHAC will fund the program with a \$1000 grant payable to the Peninsula Art League for models and refreshments for 13 sessions. Lita will work with Doug to help to transition the program to PAL and secure the models for each week.

Lita has contacted Laureen Lund to reserve the Skansie Pavilion for each Wednesday, from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM starting July 5th to September 27th.

Renee presented a report with the grant funding details: Costs for models: \$60.00 per session x 13= \$780.00. Refreshments \$15.00 x 13=\$195.00 plus \$25.00 for drawing tablets and chalk for the public easels. Total Project Grant will be \$1000.00

Betty Willis stated she had discussed the distribution of funds with Dave Rodenbach, Director, GH Finance Department on grant distribution. The grant will be deducted from the remaining balance of our 2006 grant fund. The GHAC will need to present request to the Mayor and Council for these funds to be payable to Peninsula Art League.

The event will be promoted as a fully sponsored event by GHAC, hosted by the Peninsula Art League.

Lita Dawn is still checking on our request to purchase for three or four portable easels which will be owned by the GHAC for setup and use by the public during drawing you in program. Renee will continue to follow up with her on the acquisition of easels

Bob Sullivan suggested we get a long term commitment from PAL for hosting of the program for a suggested time of three years, but members of the committee suggested we review the committee’s performance after one year, and renew as a program grant annually. It

was recommended when publicizing the event to include the public school art departments, plus they may be a good source for models.

New Business

Public Art

Skansie Medallion was installed as scheduled on April 21st and Mardie held a dedication on Saturday May 6th. Betty said the event was very nice but sparsely attended, and she expressed her disappointment at the lack of GHAC members in attendance. There was a discussion regarding the artist Mardie Reeses' statements during both the installation and at the dedication to several GHAC Commissioners regarding the "temporary life" of the materials she used for construction of the Medallion when it was fully understood the grant was stated to be a permanent installation in concrete. All members of the commission who had inspected the medallion commented at the low level of artistic detail in the final work in comparison to the drawings which were presented by the artist during the initial grant review process.

City Art Commemorating the Bridge Opening- Karla Epperson attended a preliminary planning meeting for the bridge opening. Betty Willis reported that Lita Dawn Stanton had contacted her regarding her possibly presentation of a project by local artist the park on the Gig Harbor side of the bridge. Several artists were discussed for this project, but the Commissioners felt we needed to get a firm idea what property would be available for the installation and if it would be within our jurisdiction. Bob Sullivan cautioned we should not give the impression that the Commission has already chosen an artist or team of artists, and that we could possibly move forward with outside grants to help fund the project. Kit Kuhn stated that by doing an open call for artists we put the process in a more competitive light. Betty Willis will follow-up regarding the location as it was felt we need to get a firm lock on the exact location before we can move forward. All strongly felt that any artwork should not be a city logo. Karla will be our liaison and keep the commission informed with regard to the Bridge Dedication committee.

PAL Art show at Civic Center- Another successful art exhibit is currently on display at the civic center organized by the Peninsula Art League with grant funding by GHAC. At a previous GHAC meeting the Commission felt the Civic center had lots of blank space on the walls in the stairwells and in other areas which would be perfect for permanent display of artwork purchased by the GHAC. It was suggested at the April meeting the GHAC perhaps acquire for the city art catalog one or two pieces from the PAL art show to display in the Civic Center. Betty reported upon further investigation she found that there were restrictions on the display of additional art on the walls of the Civic Center. These restrictions were put in place by the Architect who designed the building stating that the only approved artwork from the original building design may be displayed.

There was a discussion of another avenue for acquiring art to have on loan on a rotating basis. There was a discussion with regard to the list of locations for art we had targeted at previous meetings. Finholm lookout was added to the list. It was thought that we should continue to concentrate our efforts at targeting sites and placing public art at these sites.

There was a discussion at the suggestion of Bob Sullivan about the GHAC going out into the community and seeking matching fund for public art. The commission would need to

explore this further with City Officials for their blessing. The topic was tabled for further discussion.

Asian Pacific Cultural Arts Center (APCC)- Patsy O'Connell presented Betty Willis with a proposal to host an exhibition of artwork by three Chinese Artists who will be visiting the Puget Sound Area for Cultural Exchange. Ms. O'Connell presented a request to have a reception and a temporary exhibit of 15 art pieces at Gig Harbor Civic Center during the month of September. The artists will teach their particular style of art at both TCC and APCC during that month. Ms O'Connell will handle the invitations and refreshments for the Civic Center reception.

****There was a request by the Commissioners to ask Maureen Whitaker for a copy of the Public Use Policy for the use of the Civic Center.**

MOTION: To invite the Asian Pacific Cultural Arts Center to host an Art Show at the Civic Center the month of September 2006 Epperson/Kuhn Approved.
Bob Sullivan will be the liaison for the event with Patsy O'Connell. Lita Dawn Stanton has agreed to supervise the art works on the Civic Center hanging system.

Development of Arts Calendar- Renee Crist suggested the GHAC could perhaps be another information source for all Art events and activities in Gig Harbor area throughout the year. Her idea was to use the website as a place where events, dates, times and web links may be listed. Betty Willis reported she had discussed the idea with Laureen Lund with the City who said she felt there was no need for a GHAC Arts calendar since there were others out there already. Renee restated the point of the calendar was not to take the place of anything out there already, but to be another source for all events, not just events by a particular entity, or organization. Renee also stated that it was her hope to improve our website to the point where we can easily incorporate and update a calendar sometime in the future. There was no recommended action was advised.

At the response to a query by Bob Sullivan, there was a discussion of the idea for a GHAC newsletter as a possible future avenue for communication to the community.

Assignments:

GHAC Website-Renee Crist reported that after working last year getting approval for a website update, new format and outline plus getting approval for an expanded website with photographs of our public art and grant programs, only part of her initial plan has been achieved. She reported that it was difficult to get photographs posted on the website as this process is handed off to an outside entity who hosts the site. Only text can be updated easily in-house. We do have an expanded site with links to grant applications and current grant award recipients. Bob Sullivan suggested getting our own separate hosted website, which could be linked from the city's site. He will check into sources for development through arts grant from contacts he has at Microsoft

GHAC Public Relations-Betty Willis asked Commissioner Carolyn Scott Arnold to help with the commissions public relations, to work with Laureen Lund to have GHAC

announcements and PR presented to the press and arts community. Bob Sullivan offered to share press release templates we can customize for easy use.

Extension of Territory Authorized under the Grant Process- Maureen Whitaker sent the Commissioners a copy of the expanded city boundaries which the Commission would like to use to present a request to the Mayor and City Council. Mary Ray Lund, Karla Epperson and Betty Willis discussed a timeline for putting together their proposal to Council and will meet at a future time to complete this process. They have set July as the target for finalizing request to present to Council.

Community Contact -Process for requests to GHAC

Renee Crist requested that the Arts Commission develop a system for receiving requests for use of the Civic Center for Arts related projects or/and requests for GHAC support of projects and arts related events. These requests should be then presented to the Commissioners for review at each meeting. The purpose is to offer an “official” and consistent avenue for the city employees, officials and Commissioners to handle inquiries and requests that involve the GHAC. At the request of the Chair, Sally Dutton will prepare a form to be used by the public. The form will be made available at the civic center, to city employees working with the public and hopefully will be available online. These requests shall be channeled to Maureen Whitaker, who will present them to the GHAC Chairperson prior to each meeting.

Betty Willis stated that by staying focused to topic and keeping comments short we will be able to keep meetings within the time allotted by our bylaws.

Meeting Adjourned 9:15 PM

Respectfully Submitted by,
Renee Crist