

# CITY OF GIG HARBOR COMMITTEE OUTLINE MINUTES

## City of Gig Harbor Art Commission (Name of Committee, Board, Task Force, Commission)

Date: March 11, 2008      Time: 7:00 p.m.      Location: Engineering/Operations Conf Rm      Scribe: Maureen Whitaker

**Commission Members and Staff Present:** Bob Sullivan, Betty Willis, Carolyn Scott Arnold, Mary Rae Lund, Dale Strickland, Ron Carson, Karen Peck, Michael Jones, and Maureen Whitaker, Assistant City Clerk

**Excused:**

**Others present:** Linda Caspersen-Andresen, Nordic Scandinavian Group; Rob Karlinsey, City Administrator

Topic / Agenda Item	Main Points Discussed	Recommendation/Action Follow-up (if needed)
<b>New Business:</b>		
1. a. Linda Caspersen-Andresen	<p>Ms. Caspersen-Andresen presented information on the influences of the Nordic - Scandinavian community in Gig Harbor.</p> <p>Swedish, Swede-Fin, and Norwegians are the three groups that settled in Gig Harbor. Ms. Caspersen-Andresen did not know of any Icelandic or Danish people that settled here. She described the differences of the Scandinavians and Nordic people:  <b>Scandinavian</b> refers to Norwegians, Swedes and Danes.  <b>Nordic:</b> refers more to an ethnic group of people. They were located in northern Europe including Norway, Sweden, Finland and Iceland. The Nordic people also lived in Ireland, England, Germany (see areas in "red" on the attached map).  <b>Saami:</b> Indigenous people to Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Russia, much like our indigenous Native Americans. Their artwork is quite similar to the Native Americans.  <b>Swede-Fin:</b> Another important group that live in Gig Harbor, such as the Finholm family. A Swede-Fin is a person who is Finnish but speaks Swedish because they came from the Swedish speaking area of Finland. Finland had a lot of Russian influence also.</p> <p>There is much controversy amongst certain Nordic groups such as between the Icelanders and the Danes, between the Swedes and the Norwegians, and between the Fins and the Swedes. This has to do with historic border disputes that still exist today. All five of these groups are greatly represented in King, Pierce, Kitsap Counties and surrounding areas. Ms. Caspersen-Andresen further stated that the</p>	

**Topic / Agenda Item**

**Main Points Discussed**


**Recommendation/Action  
Follow-up (if needed)**

	<p>Nordic Heritage Museum in Seattle is the only museum in the U.S. that encompasses all five of these groups.</p> <p><b>Immigration to the U.S.:</b> These three groups came in the mid to late 1800's and immigrated through Ellis Island and Canada. Many ended up in the Midwest and eventually migrated to the Northwest. They came to the states and Canada for better opportunities and most of the immigrants were farmers, fishermen, and loggers.</p> <p><b>Customs, traditions, values, morays and ethics:</b> They brought their food specialties and language. Much of the language was lost because the people wanted to immerse into the American culture and refused to speak their native language. Folklore, storytelling and superstitions were a very important part of their culture. Mythical Characters were part of their culture however the Vikings were more of a Norway, Iceland and Denmark influence – not considered "Scandinavian."</p> <p><u>Music, instrumental and voice:</u> Through the voice came storytelling of their people. Music has been so important because as a general rule, nothing was written down; it was all passed on by ear. It has only been within the past few years that the stories have been written down.</p> <p><b>Six Traditional Art forms:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) <u>Painting.</u> Two different types = classics and folk painting. Folk is a decorative type of painting traditionally done on wood, leather, and fabric.</li><li>2) <u>Metal.</u> Wrought iron work is very popular and considered a prestigious craft. Sculpted pieces. Jewelry such as silver, gold, bronze and wire work. Wire work is considered more Icelandic. Statues are important to the culture. If someone was to study clothing, they would study the "statues" first.</li><li>3) <u>Wood / 3 categories.</u> Carving; Turned wood; Shipbuilding.</li><li>4) <u>Glass.</u> Fused or blown.</li><li>5) <u>Clay.</u> Tiling; Dishes; Sculpting.</li><li>6) <u>Textiles.</u> Netting or knotting was very important to the fishing industry; weaving; embroidery; traditional costumes. The only Nordic country that does not have a traditional costume is Iceland.</li></ol>	
		<p><b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b></p> <p>The GHAC would like to represent the Scandinavian/Nordic families in Gig Harbor and their influence.</p> <p>The best location to place this art is at</p>

**Topic / Agenda Item****Main Points Discussed****Recommendation/Action  
Follow-up (if needed)**

		<p>the Bogue Viewing Platform. There was a suggestion to have a motion powered device that would share stories as you walked up to the area. Marvin Petersen has a great deal of knowledge and photos (was unable to attend). Possibly worth talking to. For Call to Artists: Important to have a good screening committee to ensure that the art is proper and not offensive. There is a Scandinavian Cultural Center at PLU that could provide an expert as well as selecting members of the community. Mr. Caspersen-Andresen stated that many artists have misrepresented the true folk art. Materials need to be weather resistant and hold up in the wind and salt water. Metal, glass, wood and clay are good outdoor materials and textiles could be represented through these mediums. Ms. Caspersen-Andresen was asked what she recommended. She replied: a "Fiord horse with a bride and groom led by the fiddler." She smiled brightly as she offered her recommendation.</p>
1.b(i) Rob Karlinsey: Presenting the second draft of the Public Art Placement Request – Flow Chart and Checklist	<u>Flow Chart and Committee/Board Checklist.</u> The development of these communication documents is to help bring predictability to the process.	Minor revisions to the forms were discussed and will be implemented. Mr. Karlinsey gave an example of a Call to Artists process: 1) Give Council a "heads up". Tell them that you are going to do a Call. This would be done in a committee report. Tell them your plan for the process and have Council "bless" the

Topic / Agenda Item	Main Points Discussed	Recommendation/Action Follow-up (if needed)
		process. Once the GHAC has Council's decision on the record, consider the project ready to move forward. Have a member from each city committee/board and a community member on the selection committee. Allow them to have input. There was also discussion about having a Council member on the selection committee.
1.b(i) Rob Karlinsey: Presenting the second draft of the Public Art Placement Request – Art in Public Places	<u>Art in Public Places form.</u> The purpose of this form is to garner input from the city's boards, commissions, council and the public as to what they would like to see in terms of public art and location. Mr. Karlinsey explained that this information should be taken into consideration when planning the annual work plan for the budget.	It was suggested that the GHAC do a community outreach with a story in the Gateway that spot lights two items: 1) The city's art portfolio. 2) Request for community input. The Art in Public Places form could be published in the Gateway. The GHAC should hold two community forums in a workshop setting. This event should be heavily publicized. The GHAC should take the lead but city staff will do all the support work including publicizing by Lauren Lund. Dates will need to be determined well in advance of the forums.  Mr. Karlinsey suggested that a City Council worksession be scheduled for April 14 <sup>th</sup> to discuss the Flow Chart, Checklist and Art in Public Places forms; Percent for Art; and Public Forum.
II. New Commissioners a. Election of Officers	This item was tabled until the next meeting.	
II. New Commissioners b. Application for New Commissioners	Discussion regarding recruiting new commissioners. New application forms were distributed and discussed.	The City Council Board/Commission Interview Panel and Mayor Hunter will review applications from perspective applicants and forward their

Topic / Agenda Item	Main Points Discussed	Recommendation/Action Follow-up (if needed)
		recommendations to Maureen to set up interviews with the Council committee, the Mayor and the GHAC Chair.
III. Torrens Public Art Update	Commission Chair Sullivan gave an update on the status of the placement. There was no consensus at the last Parks Commission meeting. There was some contention about placing the artwork on the sidewalk area due to the annual Chum Festival.	The Parks Commission Chair recommended that Commission Chair Sullivan meet with Nick Tarabochia, Lita Dawn Stanton and Mayor Hunter at the Donkey Creek site to discuss final placement.  Commission Chair Sullivan was not in favor of this recommendation.
IV. Bogue Viewing Platform	Mr. Sullivan discussed some options for honoring the Scandinavian heritage and placement at this site. A new site map was distributed.	No action taken at this time.
<p>Motion for adjournment: Carson/Jones - unanimously approved. 9:50 p.m.</p> <p>Respectfully submitted,</p> <p></p> <p><u>Maureen Whitaker</u></p>		