



GIG HARBOR ARTS COMMISSION MINUTES

DATE: June 9, 2009
TIME: 5:30 pm (meeting began at 5:45 pm)
LOCATION: Executive Conference Room
SCRIBE: Lita Dawn Stanton
MEMBERS PRESENT: Tracy von Trotha, Michael Jones, Dale Strickland, Ron Carson, Summer Lane Landry, and Carola Stark (excused Bob Sullivan, Karen Peck / unexcused Pat Rosenthal)
STAFF PRESENT: Lita Dawn Stanton
MINUTES: Approval of GHAC May 19th Minutes. May 12th Minutes amended to replace "approved" with "endorsed" under New Business, Item 1. Main Street & Jerisich Project's "Recommendation" (Lane/Stark)

New Business

1. PUBLIC ART PROGRAM FOR GIG HARBOR

DISCUSSION POINTS

Staff disbursed a packet of information developed by the 2005 GHAC including images of potential art pedestal locations and publications from Puyallup and Wenatchee. Von Trotha expressed her interest in pursuing this program. Carson described the use of basalt stone with platforms to level the artwork. Discussion followed regarding the Commissions hope that the Judson Sidewalk Project could have dedicated 1% to the arts to fund artwork along Harborview. Carson reminded the Commission that running a program similar to Puyallup's would require a lot of time with dedicated staff to administer the program. Lane asked about vandalism referencing the Salmon Enchanted Salmon program that downtown merchants have managed in the past. Carson explained that there would probably be a waiver to hold the city harmless. Jones also reported that the Puyallup program provides a more permanent placement of the art on display vs. the more temporary placement used for the Salmon art program. Carson reported that it is usually a one year contract before GHAC would review the work and may recommend purchase. The community at large may also purchase the work. Jones suggested that instead of all or nothing, one time each month public works could rotate the work. Carson stated that perhaps a stipend could be provided. Strickland suggested that no fee be identified, rather that another organization establish the price. Stark asked if there were other exhibit programs that could be resourced in the area. Stark agreed to look into other Main Street Cities that may have programs managed by volunteers. Discussion followed describing an opportunity to locate and place four pedestals in anticipation of a public art program. Von Trotha suggested that since the Bogue Viewing Platform call-for-artists is on hold until at least fall due to budget constraints, this would be a good opportunity to give art visibility without financially obligating the city. Stark will circulate information on other programs to each Commissioner via e-mail. Carson noted that Whidbey Island, Langley and Oakville may have good information. Strickland sited Austin Estuary as a good location for multiple pedestals. Carson suggested that the platform could be anchored with a nut and bolt and that concrete or basalt columns would be appropriate materials. Strickland added that the platform could slide to adjust for art. Strickland suggested that the Commission develop a game plan. Carson suggested that staff query the Parks Commission first so that they are informed early on. Strickland commented further that as a result of conflict during the Torrens Bell location discussion with the Parks Commission, a process flow chart was developed to improve communication and encourage early input. Strickland added that once the platforms are in place, we'll have a program. Von Trotha had to leave early and asked Jones to take over as chair of the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION / ACTION / FOLLOW-UP

Commissioner Stark will send info from other cities via e-mail. Motion to continue to talk and work on a public art program with no time-table / to keep the process moving forward.
(Jones/Strickland/)

2. SAMPLE BIKE RACK DESIGNS

DISCUSSION POINTS

Stark circulated catalogs of artistic but functional bike racks. Stark will order more copies that can be used as a GHAC resource when placements are considered. The Commission confirmed that there are a number of local metal artist that could be commissioned to construct bike racks. Funding could be shared between the Arts Commission budget and Public Works (Parks). The Commission suggested circulating the May 12th minutes to the Gig Harbor Historic Waterfront Association (GHHWA) so that they are aware of the Commission's desire to collaborate on the placement of public art as part of the Jerisich Dock Improvement Project.

RECOMMENDATION / ACTION / FOLLOW-UP

Staff will forward the May 12th minutes to GHHWA representative Stark to disburse.

3. CITY CENTER FIELD TRIP OF PUBLIC ART INVENTORY

DISCUSSION POINTS

Before leaving the meeting, Von Trotha requested that the field trip be postponed until the next meeting so that everyone was present for the Civic Center walk-through. A discussion followed regarding the need of and use for the photos that von Trotha and Jones would supply. Jones suggested that a map showing the location of each artwork be developed. Stark informed the Commission that GHHWA was developing a walking map for 2009 and that the 2010 design could include the City's art. Lane suggested combining these points of interest with the gallery locations publication. Jones suggested that the photos be taken first followed by a map. From there we can contact other organizations to ask for publication partnerships. Staff confirmed that the list of 2009 Art Grant Recipients was placed on the City's website. Each organization is hot-linked to their respective websites.

RECOMMENDATION / ACTION / FOLLOW-UP

Field Trip postponed until July 14th.

Old Business

1. JERISICH PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT UPDATE

DISCUSSION POINTS

Stark reported that the GHHWA attended a Parks/Council workshop and that attendees were in support of the project. The Design Committee is working to finalize draft drawings and will circulate. GHHWA will present to the Design Review Board on June 25. In the meantime the group is considering what they can do immediately to help clean-up the site.

RECOMMENDATION / ACTION / FOLLOW-UP

Start will continue to update the Commission the project's progress.

2. TORRENS "RING IN THE SALMON" AT DONKEY CREEK

DISCUSSION POINTS

Staff circulated photographs of the May 19th meeting to identify final placement of the bell. The same images were placed on the Arts Commission page of the City's website. Public works will work directly with Torrens to pour the concrete base and place the bell. The installation is expected in July.

RECOMMENDATION / ACTION / FOLLOW-UP

Staff will keep the Commission informed so that a formal ribbon-cutting can be planned.