



*Renton
Municipal
Arts
Commission*

RENTON MUNICIPAL ARTS COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

May 7, 2008
8:00 a.m.

Renton City Hall
Council Conference Room

Municipal Arts Commissioners Present: Doug Kyes, Fred Lund, Linda Middlebrooks, Mike O'Halloran, Patricia Pepper, Britt Peterson

Municipal Arts Commissioners Absent: Dalia Amin, Jerri Everett, Kristi Hand, Evelyn Reingold

City Staff Present: Suzanne Dale Estey, Economic Development Director; Jennifer Davis Hayes, Community Development Project Manager; Vincent Orduna, Cultural Arts Coordinator; Judith Subia, Administrative Secretary

Guests: Mayor Denis Law; Vicki Hart, Renton Annual Art Show; Liz Stewart, Renton History Museum, Museum Supervisor; Eduardo Mendoca;

CALL TO ORDER: Commission Chair Pepper called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

GUESTS:

Mayor Denis Law: Mayor Law thanked the Commissioners for their work and dedication. RMAC is valuable to the community. He is looking forward to the work that will be done on Second and Main.

Commission Chair Pepper said that as Renton is growing, Renton's art and culture is also growing. She asked about help from the City. Mayor Law talked about the 1% for Art fund. He recognizes that art is a piece of the City. Mayor Law is looking to see how other services for the community and art can be put together.

Commissioner Lund asked what his vision was for the Master Plan. Mayor Law wants to work as a community, with greater emphasis and involvement. He also discussed how the IKEA Performing Arts Center (IPAC) is a viable part of the City and asked how the City and RMAC could fund more performances.

Commissioner O'Halloran said that it would be nice to have a larger budget for RMAC. Funds from the Commission are distributed to local art organizations, including IPAC and the Renton Annual Art Show.

Vicki Hart, Renton Annual Art Show (RAAS): Vicki Hart distributed and discussed a chronology of community participation and the relationship between RMAC, RAAS, and Renton River Days (RRD). In 1986, RRD was founded and RAAS agreed to be a featured event of the festival. In 1990, RAAS agreed to provide a venue for local musicians on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. RRD schedules the performers and solicits contributions from RMAC to pay the musicians' stipends. In 1993, RAAS assumed the responsibility for scheduling musicians and RRD continues to provide stipends contributed by RMAC.

There was discussion about art that was given to the City. Vicki said that RAAS owns art, which is given to the City as a gift, for the community to view.

At a previous meeting, there was discussion about an award of possibly \$500 to RAAS to be awarded to the artists. Commissioner O'Halloran asked if there was a preference for the money to be given as an award or for the musicians' stipends. Vicki said that it didn't matter and that the funds from RMAC would be designated as decided by the Commissioners.

Commissioner Peterson asked if there is an inventoried list of art given to the City from RAAS. Vicki said that the City has a list of the art and its locations.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Commission approved the January 2008 minutes as written.

The Commission made the following change in the May 2008 minutes: the Carco Theater Guest Artists should read, "Ms. Uriola will send in paperwork." MOVED BY LUND, SECONDED BY O'HALLORAN to approve the May 2008 minutes as amended. COMMISSIONERS CONCUR, MOTION CARRIED.

CORRESPONDENCE: Commissioner Lund distributed mail to RMAC which was miscellaneous materials from various art groups in outlying areas.

OLD BUSINESS/ACTION ITEM LIST:

#1. Website Information: The proposed changes presented at the last meeting have been posted on the City's website. The Commission asked that pictures of all the art throughout the City be posted online as well.

#2. 1% for Art Ideas for Future Park Projects

Second & Main Development Project: Jennifer presented a rendering of what the architects have presented to the Hearing Examiner. They have requested increased density. The architects will finalize the design and will have space set aside for art. Commissioners Pepper and Peterson have worked with the architects to select what type of art will be displayed. The Commission will be involved in the hiring process for the artist. Construction will start in September and is a great opportunity for the gateway into Downtown Renton.

Commissioner Kyes asked who would maintain the art. Jennifer said that the City would maintain it. In an agreement that will be made between the developers/property owners and the City, art requiring more maintenance may be chosen if the architect agrees to maintain it.

Sculpture Art: Commissioner Peterson asked about a park for sculpture art and asked how this idea could be presented to the Commission. Commission Chair Pepper said that a park would require work from the City, including the purchase of land. She asked that a proposal be made and presented to the Commission and also stated that this could be added to the Vision in the Master Plan.

Wayfinding Sign Project: Jennifer said that the consultants are finalizing their designs. Advanced directional signs will be installed in the fall. An RFP for the installation process will also begin.

Art Placement: Commissioner O'Halloran said that he would like to partner with the Parks Division and that they let RMAC know where the art will be placed. VJ said that it is the Commission's responsibility to look at Park's streetscapes, etc. and to use the Commission's expertise to determine where the art will be placed.

#3. Master Plan for RMAC: Jennifer asked the Commission to look at ideas and see what other Arts Commissions are doing. The scope of work and budget will be developed, which will be presented to Council in September. If funding is approved by Council, a request for proposals from consultants will be made in January.

#4. Carco Theater Guest Artists: Commissioner Peterson reported that Conswella Uriola has not submitted her paperwork. Orenda Ayashe's work is showing from May 3 to June 14, 2008. A press release was sent out and Ms. Ayashe's information is in the Renton Reporter and the City's website.

Commissioner Peterson presented ideas to the Commission asking how the word could be spread throughout the community. There was discussion about an artist reception and postcards to advertise it. VJ will contact Facilities and take care of the track lighting. He suggested that there be consistency with the date for receptions, for example every fourth Sunday of the month. Commissioner Peterson and VJ will work on the schedule.

Commissioner Peterson talked about setting up the artists' work and VJ asked about help from other commissioners. Commissioner O'Halloran suggested sending an email to the commissioners a week before to get volunteers.

Commissioner Middlebrooks asked about the food that will be served at the reception. Commissioner Peterson suggested setting the number of attendees and budget. Suzanne encouraged a reception and said that she would help rally attendees. There are also various types of media that the City uses to communicate with the residents which can be used to advertise these receptions.

Although it is too late to schedule a reception to coordinate with the teen musical, VJ suggested a reception during the fall schedule.

#5. Maintenance/Repair Artwork: Jennifer presented a list of eight pieces of art that are on contract to be cleaned. To date, two pieces, Summer Breeze and Wolves at Indian Baskets, have been completed.

#6. Welcome to Renton Sign: Commissioner O'Halloran said that there are no updates. The repair work has been completed and the art will be mounted at Tiffany Park.

#7. Resource Development: Jennifer said that the letters for the financial grant has been mailed and is posted online. The deadline is May 23, 2008. Commissioners Kyes and O'Halloran discussed the art classes for the Renton School District (RSD) from Seattle Art Museum (SAM). Commissioner Kyes said that Commissioner Reingold works for SAM and will go out and have classes with the students. There was discussion that six classes will be awarded to RSD for \$50 each. Commissioner O'Halloran said that this is a proposal only and that RSD is being asked to apply for a grant.

Jennifer asked who the contact was at RSD as no letter for the financial grant was mailed. Commissioner Kyes said that Randy Matheson's office recommended Renton High School. Commissioner Kyes would like Commissioner Reingold to speak with the teacher to explain the program.

VJ suggested that this not be a grant project, but for a proposal to be presented and the funds for these classes come from RMAC's budget.

#8. Burnett Linear Park Art: Commissioner O'Halloran said that the sculpture Equii has been moved to Renton Technical College to be refurbished. It will be placed back at Burnett Linear Park and will be prominently highlighted in a more protected area. Jennifer said that it will be placed back in June or July.

#9. 4Culture Grant: There are no updates. The grant may be awarded later this year.

#10: Bravo Award: Nominees are needed for the Bravo Award. There was discussion of nominating Barbara Neilson and Ellie Simpson. Jennifer said that having a proposal is helpful so that it would bring everyone on the same page. Commission Chair Pepper agreed indicating that criteria needs to be created that the entire Commission can agree on and one that sets the tone of how the Commission will choose the award recipient.

Commissioners Kyes and Middlebrooks will work on the criteria and proposal which will be presented at the next meeting.

#11: Herons Art Move: There is nothing in place to have the sculpture moved. Jennifer contacted Terry Flatley in Parks to see if tree trimming would help. Commission Chair Pepper said that the visibility is poor and asked how it could be improved. Options would be to leave the tree and move the sculpture or

to trim the tree and leave the sculpture. Commissioner O'Halloran reminded the Commission of the time capsule beneath the sculpture.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commission Meeting Dates and Times: Commission Chair Pepper asked about meeting during the summer months of July and August, months where the Commission does not normally meet. Commission Chair Pepper would not be able to attend the July meeting. There was concern about the items on the Commission's work program and not enough meeting times to plan and discuss them.

A motion was made to meet in July and August, as a special meeting, on the first Wednesday of the month, at 8:00 a.m. in the Council Conference Room. MOVED BY MIDDLEBROOKS, SECONDED BY PETERSON. COMMISSIONERS CONCUR. MOTION CARRIED.

Commissioner Peterson will act as the Commission Chair at the July 2, 2008 meeting. There was also discussion about changing the meeting time to later in the afternoon. Research will be done on other Commissions meeting times throughout the City.

RAAS: Commissioner Middlebrooks asked the Commission to save the date of July 20, 2008 for the first day of helping RAAS. Artists bring in their work and register. A preview party is scheduled for Thursday and volunteers are needed at the Art Show for the whole weekend, Friday through Sunday.

Bi-annual Report and Other Print Material: Commissioner O'Halloran asked about the bi-annual report and asked that 100 be printed for distribution at Renton River Days. There are also other brochures that the Commission uses for distribution, including the City Owned Art brochure. Staff will research the electronic files and work with Commissioner Lund for updating and printing, as necessary.

Missing Plaques: Commissioner O'Halloran asked about the plaque at Heritage Park. Jennifer asked for an updated list of missing art so that they can be replaced all at once.

A motion was made for replacement and new plaques funds to come out of the 1% for Art budget. MOVED BY O'HALLORAN, SECONDED BY MIDDLEBROOKS. COMMISSIONERS CONCUR, MOTION CARRIED.

ADJOURNMENT: The May 7, 2008, meeting was adjourned at 10:12 a.m. The next meeting will be on June 4, 2008.

Patricia Pepper, Chair