RENTON MUNICIPAL ARTS COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

October 6, 2009
4:30 pm

Renton City Hall
Conferencing Center (7th Floor)

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

Municipal Arts Commissioners Absent: Dalia Amin, Evelyn Reingold and Wesley Van Doren

City Staff Present: Jennifer Davis Hayes, Community & Economic Development
Vivienne Lietz, Administrative Secretary, Community & Economic Development

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CALL TO ORDER: Chair Patricia Pepper called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

Guest: Barbara McMichael, Administrator, SoCoCulture. South King County Cultural Coalition has 69 arts & heritage organization members. Their area ranges from Burien, Renton Tukwila, Maple Valley and south to the boundary of King County. The organization was founded in 2004 by Julia Patterson who recently received an award to recognize her contribution to arts and culture in King County.

- SoCoCulture.org website contains an exhibit page, volunteer opportunities, calendar, venues and a call for artists page. Renton has been good about giving them information and they post it for all to see. Please use their website as a resource to check-in to see what else is going on around the county. You can sign up for their monthly e-newsletter. SoCoCulture is also doing social networking. There is a tutorial available at King County Library for social networking. SoCoCulture has a Twitter page, useful for sending out reminders for folks, they are also on Facebook. They can post information on any arts events in South King County. She is also starting a blog and requested information to be sent and she will post it.

- At the WA State Arts Alliance meeting SoCoCulture received very nice exposure. Barbara is now on the monthly agenda which will help to keep local municipalities informed.

- Michael Kaiser, head of Kennedy Center. National Center for Performing Arts has his finger on arts throughout the country. He is visiting all States asking arts organizations to have a 3-5 year plan to avoid losing art programs in these difficult times. A plan helps bridge the gap between the financial and the actual art. Look more creatively to promote events, to reach out and peak more interest, not just with the traditional way of advertising like brochures.

- 2010 Centennial Women's Suffrage is a 4 Culture support project. Barb is speaking with the South King County League of Women voters. Jennifer Davis Hayes thought it would be good to show a women artist at Carco Theatre during the month this will be focused.

- Legislative Arts day will be February 2, 2010. Museums' Day in March. Barb asked Mike O'Halloran if he would be willing to schedule appointments again and stated he would.

- Lodging tax for the King Dome is going to expire. The tax goes to 4Culture who then gives to local arts organizations.

- A-Z cultural partnership. Communities can vote on more tax to fund cultural programs and that includes science and museums. Everyone needs to know the difference between the two.

- Next SoCoCulture meeting is Wednesday, November 18, 1-2:30 pm at Burien Library/City Hall. They have invited all the cultural organizations to share information.

Fred Lund mentioned Artsjournal.com, might be useful to promote their blog.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: PAT PEPPER MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 1 MINUTES. SECONDED BY FRED LUND. COMMISSIONERS CONCUR, MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC ART PIECE OF THE MONTH introduced by Jerri Everett. She handed members a brief description of the art piece and asked who could guess what it was. The work is Donkey at Tonkin Park, by Richard Beyer, who also did the Wolves at Indian Basket on the Cedar River Trail. He was the first sculptor to use foam to cast his aluminum.

Britt Peterson will do the public art piece in November; Doug Kyes will do the public art piece in December.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: Fred Lund distributed mail highlighting local art events.

OLD BUSINESS:
Local Arts Agency: It would be good for arts commissioners to attend 4Culture or SoCo Culture meetings as they are very informational.

ACTION ITEM LIST:
Communications: Britt Peterson spoke about the Renton River Days booth; passport idea for Renton History Museum worked and was planned well in advance. We should do the same.
Public arts brochure, need to have ready in January. They are currently researching other arts commission brochures.
Carco Theatre lobby display is currently Jim Matthew. David Jayne will be installed at the end of the month. The committee is working on a Call for Artists for all of 2010 artists.

Resource Development: no opportunity to meet, however progress was made and is in the notes.

- Denise Zullig – North Logan consultant on board, Cath Brunner from 4Culture. Once we have the recommendations we will bring them before board. Will try for the November meeting to review progress.

- 4 Cow project. Talked with Brian Van Houten; he had the idea to do cows throughout Downtown Renton, similar to Pigs on Parade in Seattle, other cities, to grow interest in the 4 Cow project. RMAC's focus is 1% for Art at Shattuck Avenue South bridge. Both projects will work well together. South Renton Connection group are seeking volunteers to help them with Cows of Renton project. Doug Kyes & Denise Zullig will work on 4 Cow project.
- "Make Art in Renton" small grant applications:-Received 5 requests from Renton High School Art Club, Uptown Glassworks, Black River LINKS Program, Miho & Diego Duo, and Renton Civic Theatre. LINDA MIDDLEBROOKS MOTIONED TO VOTE FOR ALL GRANTS TOGETHER, PAT PEPPER SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED, ALL CONCUR. Pat Pepper suggested putting something in writing for next year to exclude giving grants to produce flyers or marketing materials.

Partnership/Community Development: Valerie Gower has formerly resigned and it was accepted by the Mayor. Her health has dictated this decision and it is a great loss for the Commission. We are in the process of contacting a person from the earlier list and may have information on a new member soon.

Executive Committee: Art acceptance policy, draft will be ready for November's meeting.

Master Plan: Have selected a consultant and are waiting Council approval. Lund Consulting, Inc was chosen. Deciding factors:

- Passion for doing arts projects.
- Presentation did not even include everything they had done, Fred Lund has researched since and they have some fantastic projects. Lund Consulting worked with the State's Arts Commission. When Jennifer called Kris Tucker, executive director, for a reference check, Kris raved about the work. She also commented that our plan to reach out beyond local arts organizations is smart and will help to ensure success.
- Willing to work in budget.
- Passion, expertise and overall presentation.
- Other members of consulting team include Peggy Wise, who has lots of experience with government and private business, and Jane Schlesky, who has corporate and event planning experience.

The City Council must approve entering into this contract with Lund Consulting. It was referred from full council to Community Services committee on October 19, 6:00 pm. RMAC members are welcome to attend.

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Renton River Days: postpone until November.

Outstanding projects and projects status

- Carco Theatre Lobby Display: Working on procedure for artist to apply. Next artist lined up, can we include a call for artists in utility mailer. Work on a schedule for 2010.
- Public Art Video: Complete and submitted to City Clerk. 30 minute video showcasing public art in Renton.

Site Specific Art:

- Vincent Orduna has selected artist for Clam Lights and was contacting them. Jennifer Davis Hayes will follow up with Vincent Orduna on progress.

Commission Budget:

- Jennifer Davis Hayes passed around report from Carco Theatre for reimbursement for grant.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Doug Kyes mentioned the art mural. He wasn't happy and felt more discussion should have taken place. The Commission's responsibility is determined by city sign code and currently the criteria voted on are what are required by the code. Jennifer agrees that the timeline was rushed due to the desire to start painting before the rainy season.
- Downtown area could use help. Passed around idea for pop-up gallery, Fred Lund's idea is to display art in the empty storefronts and use cut outs of people inside the storefronts to look like activity. Effective in showcasing the art and making the stores appear busy. Try a pilot program of a few artists and then check artist and community feedback. Jennifer Davis Hayes can be the connection to the property owners if RMAC can connect to the artists. Businesses can also display art. **FRED LUND MOVED TO BEGIN PILOT PROJECT AND REQUESTED $500 TO BEGIN PROJECT**. Silhouettes of people engaging with art. **DOUG KYES SECONDED**. All in favor, passed. Small committee to work on project, Fred Lund and Mike O'Halloran. Could connect to Cow project, have a cow silhouette.

Adjournment: The October 6, 2009, meeting was adjourned at 6:13 pm. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2009 at 4:30 pm.

Patricia C. Pepper

Patricia Pepper, Chair

11-3-09