



Meeting Minutes

Arts Commission

City Hall
601 4th Avenue E
Olympia, WA 98501

Contact: Stephanie
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Thursday, October 13, 2016

6:00 PM

Room 112

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

1.A ROLL CALL

Present: 7 - Chair Marygrace Jennings, Vice Chair Stacy Hicks, Commissioner Diana Fairbanks, Commissioner Ron Hinton, Commissioner Kathy Murray, Commissioner Katie Nelson and Commissioner Rick Perry

Absent: 2 - Commissioner Susan Aurand and Commissioner Britta Echtele

OTHERS PRESENT

Olympia Planning Commission Chair Brian Mark
Councilmember/Arts Commission Liaison Clark Gilman

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Johnson asked to add the 2017 Work Plan to Other Topics, and to update the Commission about upcoming dates.

The agenda was approved as amended.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[16-1111](#) Approval of September 8, 2016 Arts Commission Minutes

The minutes were approved.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Brittannia Kerschner curates exhibitions at The Washington Center and takes minutes for the Olympia Artspace Alliance. She noted she is excited about where Olympia is taking the arts.

Randi Miller and Amy Briggs, from Kokua, visited to share the one-year anniversary of the Hummingbird Studio, an inclusive community art studio for individuals of all abilities, at the Arbutus Folk School.

Kris Tucker, Chair of the Olympia Artspace Alliance.

Alicia Elliott and Tucker Petertil, from West Central Park.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioners shared information about past and upcoming events.

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

[16-1115](#) Final Designs for the east side Traffic Box Public Art Project

Commissioners reviewed the final tally and the 10 designs recommended for fabrication and installation, as well as two alternates (runners up). Commissioners recommended that the Art in Public Places Committee take up the next phase of the project at their December meeting.

Vice Chair Hicks moved, seconded by Commissioner Perry, to forward a recommendation for approval to City Council. The motion passed unanimously.

7. PRESENTATIONS

[16-1126](#) Presentations by Kris Tucker (Olympia Artspace Alliance) and Alicia Elliott (West Central Park)

Olympia Artspace Alliance (OAA) Board Chair Kris Tucker brought Commissioners up to date on the efforts of the group to provide affordable artist studio space and housing in downtown Olympia. OAA's endeavor to bring an Artspace Inc. project to Olympia concluded with a feasibility study that indicated a significant financial gap that would need to be bridged to move forward. She said local developer Walker John is developing plans for two mixed use projects that would provide small apartments and studio space for artists: the developer's goal is to provide small apartments that would rent under \$1000, plus studio and exhibition space in the building. OAA is serving in an advisory role with this project, but currently has no contract with Walker John or Thomas Architecture Studio, the project architects.

Alicia Elliott and Tucker Petertil provided an overview to West Central Park, and shared their plans to incorporate more art into the park. Upcoming projects include a fence mural, pedestals for sculpture, and a founder's tree for donations. They look forward to participating in the Gateways Project as well as installation of the artistic tree guards designed by Don Freas on the sidewalk that borders the park to the west.

The information was provided.

7. REPORTS

[16-1112](#) Commission Items

- 1.8 Artspace/Arts Center Support - See Presentations.
- 1.12 Commission Retreat/Work Session - Completed
- 1.13 City Planning Efforts - Ms. Johnson shared proposed text for a letter to Council responding to the Downtown Strategy, and the specific items related to the Arts Commission. Commissioners directed Ms. Johnson to re-write the letter to reflect the evening's discussion, specifically, their intent to address the downtown street improvements with an artist on the design team. Chair Jennings will review and sign the letter on behalf of the Commission. The due date for the response is November 6, in advance of the Commission's next meeting.
- 2.b Public Art Assessment - Completed
- 2.c Arts & Heritage Day at the Capitol - February 8, 2017

The report was received.

[16-1113](#) Community Events & Outreach Committee

- 1.2 Poet Laureate - Ms. Johnson reported there were 10 applications received. Jury packets have been distributed. The jury is October 27, at 10:00 a.m.
- 1.3 Downtown Music Festival - Commissioner Hinton shared his positive experience attending the inaugural Jazz Walk in Olympia on August 27, 2016. Ms. Johnson followed up with observations shared by Jazz Walk director Gregory Malcolm, who was encouraged by the response and plans to continue the festival next year, including more local musicians and youth bands. Commissioners agreed to wait in moving forward on a new music festival and support this emerging effort.
- 1.5 Encourage Art in Vacant Storefronts - Ms. Johnson reported she forwarded notes from the recent Spaceworks presentation to Mark Rentfrow, PBI staff liaison, to see if there was any interest from the board.
- 1.10 Explore Creative District - No report.
- 1.11 Neighborhood Arts Support - No report.
- 1.15 Encourage Early Arts Education Opportunities - Commissioner Hinton shared copies of the revised notice for youth Commissioners. After determining the length of the appointment to extend from January - September 1, 2016, staff was directed to move forward in releasing the opportunity.
- 2.a Arts Walk 52 & 53 - 52 - Completed. Ms. Johnson called for jurors for the 2017 cover competition. Commissioner Perry will represent the Commission; artist Brian Wayne Jansen and curator Brittannia Kerschner will round out the group.

The report was received.

[16-1114](#) Art in Public Places Committee

- 1.1 2016 Municipal Art Plan to City Council - Completed.
- 1.4 Music Out Loud - No report.
- 1.6 Harrison/Black Lake Tree Guards - Ms. Johnson shared images of the tree guards in storage. She hopes to have them installed by the end of November.
- 1.7 City Gateways - The RFQ is ready to go out. Ms. Johnson will initiate the process.
- 1.9 Guidelines for Temporary Display of Art at City Hall & Programming - The Call for Curator will go to the General Government Committee on December 9 for approval.
- 1.14 Visual Enhancement of Downtown - No report.

2.d Traffic Box Mural Wrap Public Art Project - See Business Items.

2.e Percival Plinth Project - No report.

The report was received.

8. OTHER TOPICS

Ms. Johnson shared drafts of the 2017 Work Plan to date.

Ms. Johnson also noted work has begun on a water project near the Farmers Market. Three sections of *Triumph of the Vegetables* have been removed to accommodate construction in the roundabout.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.