



Meeting Minutes

Arts Commission

City Hall
601 4th Avenue E
Olympia, WA 98501

Contact: Stephanie
Johnson
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Thursday, December 10, 2020

6:00 PM

Online or via phone

Register to attend:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_H0GeF245RUeLHuoI3BBkvA

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Grisham called the meeting to order at 6:01pm.

1.A ROLL CALL

Art Crossing Project artist Andrea Wilbur-Sigo and Poet Laureate Sady Sparks were also in attendance, along with seven attendees.

Present: 7 - Chair Timothy Grisham, Vice Chair Frederick Dobler, Commissioner Jim Burlingame, Commissioner Kathryn Dorgan, Commissioner Rose Clifthorne, Commissioner Stacy Hicks and Commissioner Kathy Murray

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Grisham asked to switch items 6A and 6B in the agenda. Commissioner Dorgan moved to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Vice-Chair Dobler.

The agenda was approved.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.A [20-1002](#) Approval of November 12, 2020 Arts Commission Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [OAC 11.12.20 Minutes](#)

Vice-Chair Dobler moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Hicks.

The minutes were approved.

4. PUBLIC HEARING

3.B [20-0997](#) PUBLIC HEARING - Eastside St. Art Crossing Public Art Concept Plan

Art Crossing Project artist Andrea Wilbur-Sigo shared her concept presentation for the Eastside Street location. Entitled "Unity," the proposal of two, 10' tall cedar carvings,

reflective of the house posts of the Salish dwellings that once covered all the shores of the Salish Sea. Representing the People of the Trees and the People of the Water, the sculptures will be carved using a traditional D-Adze, and tells the story of community made stronger by standing together.

Commissioners and staff asked technical questions about placement, lighting, and sealing of the wood.

Chair Grisham opened public comment. There were no attendees signed up in advance, and when asked if anyone wished to speak, Kasia Pierzga said they appreciated the proposal. Chair Grisham closed public comment.

Commissioner Burlingame moved to accept the concept plan and to move it forward to City Council, seconded by Commissioner Hicks.

The motion was approved to move the concept plan forward to City Council.

5 PUBLIC COMMENT

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

6.B [20-1007](#) Farewell to outgoing Poet laureate Sady Sparks

Outgoing Poet Laureate Sady Sparks led Commissioners through a brief poetry activity, shared a poem, and expressed her appreciation to the Arts Commission and staff, for the opportunity and experience. Commissioners thanked her for her service.

Information only. No action requested.

6.A [20-1006](#) Poet Laureate Process Recommendation

Ms. Johnson provided an overview of the staff report and the recommendation to modify the Call for Poet Laureate with an emphasis on addressing diversity, inclusion and community. Commissioners discussed various aspects of the recommendation, specifically their preference to have two Arts Commissioners on the panel. Given the necessity of having the current Poet Laureate, the City Strategic Communications Director, and a majority Black, Indigenous People of Color representation among a five person jury, staff will move forward with one Commissioner this time. Staff will make modifications to the Call for Poet Laureate and bring to the January 14, 2021 meeting for Arts Commission approval.

Vice-Chair Dobler moved to approve the recommendation, seconded by Commissioner Burlingame. The motion was approved.

Move to make modifications to reopen the Call for Poet Laureate following the January 14, 2021 Arts Commission meeting with a focus on addressing diversity, inclusion and community.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Johnson and Chair Grisham shared that the 2021 Grants to Arts and Culture Organization recommendation was approved by Council, along with the Plinth Project People's Choice Award purchase. Ms. Johnson shared that due to utility and placement issues, along with imminent future development, the salmon component of the West Bay Art Crossing would be installed, and the heron sculpture held until the projected frontage improvements were completed. She also noted that City Council approved moving forward with further research on the Armory building.

8. REPORTS

8.A [20-0999](#) Policy and Program Recommendations to City Council

Information only. No action requested.

8.B [20-1000](#) Arts Program Support

Information only. No action requested.

8.C [20-1001](#) ARCH Support

Information only. No action requested.

9. OTHER TOPICS

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48pm.

Upcoming

Accommodations