

**Sammamish Art Commission
Meeting
November 16, 2009
Sammamish City Hall
7:00pm**

Attendance

Commissioners: Chair Barbara Jirsa, Deborah Akerstrom, Carol Ross, Bala Subramanian, Daphne Robinson, Kent Green

Staff: Lyman Howard

Guests: Janis Seil, Rochelle Wyatt

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

Introductions

Janis Seil was present to discuss an issue at Beaver Lake County Park and Rochelle Wyatt was present as a candidate for the Arts Commission. Both were welcomed and thanked for their involvement.

Minutes

Minutes from the October 19, 2009 were accepted.

Financial Report

Financial Report was presented by Lyman Howard. Spending to date: **\$12,247.08**

Beaver Lake Totems

Janis Seil, a Beaver Lake Road resident, presented the history of the Beaver Lake Park property and the totems that were placed there as a *1% for Art* project of the King County Arts Commission in 1992. She expressed her concern for the 40 trees that are planned for removal in the general area of the totems that she feels will compromise the poles and the setting. The exposed land is planned for a play area and parking. Janis advocated for not removing the trees, for a plaque that would identify the totems by story and artist and for better lighting. The Commission was grateful for the history and update on the situation and thanked Janis for her work to preserve the art and community history.

Student Art Project

High School student Courtney Walsh is seeking advice for organizing an exhibition of her work as a senior project. Deborah Akerstrom and Daphne Robinson offered to help.

Wellness Program

Bala Subramanian is organizing a wellness seminar for the community with presenter M. K. Ramanujam who is visiting from India. The program, presented by the Arts Commission in partnership with the Parks Department, relates to mediation and stress management techniques. The program will be offered on Monday, December 7 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. in the Council Chambers.

Commons Gallery Exhibits

We will be de-installing the Sari exhibition on Tuesday, December 8 and help would be appreciated. The install for the *HARDWARE: A Love Story* will be on December 9.

Opening reception is then on December 10. It was reported that a jazz pianist has been secured, Carol Ross will organize the food and Deborah Akerstrom would coordinate the volunteers.

Commission Applications

Interviews with the 9 candidates for the Commission were postponed until January. There are 4 openings – 2 Commissioners and 2 Alternates. It is hoped that the others can be incorporated into a committee system that is planned to get more involvement from the community.

4Culture Sustained Grant Application

Allison Gubata is coordinating the application process. Daphne Robinson has done a great job organizing the information required. The deadline is fast approaching.

Reports

Barbara Jirsa reported that the **Washington State Cultural Congress** will be held at the Skamania Lodge on the Washington/Oregon board April 26-28, 2010. This is a new location for the conference and there is opportunity to network with Oregon arts groups as well as those from around the state of Washington. Attendance is encouraged.

The 4Culture-sponsored **LAA meeting** will be held at Bellevue City Hall on Thursday, December 19 beginning at 9:30am. This will be a great opportunity to see the art that fills their new building.

Website progress is awaiting a newly hired web person for the City. The plan is still on track to offer a **community cultural calendar**. Bala is working on this project.

Daphne is organizing the **Simple Measures** concert to be presented on April 20. Location is being determined and a major marketing campaign will be undertaken to ensure good attendance. The performance will be offered free to the public.

Carol Ross and Deborah Akerstrom noted that the figures were not yet available for the Chamber of Commerce auction of art donated by Art Fair artists.

December Commission Meeting

It was agreed that there would not be a December Commission meeting the Christmas holiday. The next meeting will be held on **Monday, January 25 at 6:30 pm**. Interviews for open positions should be held prior to that date. A retreat will be held in early February to organize the committee structure and to create the Commission's work plan for the year.

Respectfully Submitted
Barbara Jirsa, Arts Commission Chair