

**Sammamish Arts Commission
Monthly Meeting
February 22, 2010
Sammamish City Hall
6:30 PM**

Attendance

Commissioners: Barbara Jirsa, Daphne Robinson, Carol Ross, Molly Strange, Rochelle Wyatt, Deborah Akerstrom, Bala Subramanian

Alternates: Jingyu Li

Art Fair Co-Chair: Anna Macrae

Absent: Vinita Karun, Bharath Sankaranarayan

Staff: Lyman Howard, Finance Director, Allison Gubata, Administrative Assistant

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Commission Chair Barbara Jirsa.

Minutes

Minutes from the January 25, 2010 Commission meeting were approved as printed.

Financial Report

Lyman Howard noted that the budget expenditures have been low. Carry forwards from the 2009 budget amount to approximately \$2700 for the Simple Measures performance and approximately \$500 for the December exhibit installation. Council approval for these funds is needed.

Art Fair Issues

Carol Ross reported that the Art Fair Committee has met and that several issues were discussed.

- Audience Development – build the event into a community-wide festival with a balance of different community happenings. The partnership with the Farmer's Market did not prove to be as successful as thought and will not be in place for 2010. The focus will be more toward non-profit groups.
- BRAVO auction participation – Carol Ross will be meeting with the BRAVO coordinator to assess the Art Fair artist's participation in the event and the funds to be contributed to the Arts Commission for a percentage of the sale price.

2010 Art Fair Budget

Anna Macrae presented the proposed budget for the 2010 juried Art Fair in the amount of \$6,800. The figure includes an increase for printing costs that are anticipated. It is expected that actual expense will be lower but this encompasses the outside possibilities.

Motion: To approve the 2010 Art Fair Budget of \$6,800. **MSC**

Discussion was held on promotional opportunities and included suggestions such as continued use of the Art Fair website, Facebook presence, printed postcards

and posters as well as media contacts. In addition, it was suggested that an insert in the City newsletter be considered. A questionnaire will be circulated to fair attendees to gauge expectations and event experience. The City donated the cost of installing the street banner and a facility monitor in 2009 and it is hoped that this will be the case again for 2010.

The inclusion of performing arts is desired – either ones that perform on a stationary stage or roving. There is a need to investigate the possibilities of soliciting of performers, costs and coordination during the event. The new library was discussed as a venue for a performance of some kind as well as a children's activity. Carol Ross and Deborah Akerstrom will connect with the library staff and possibly the *Friends of the Library* to discuss the possibilities.

Arts Commission Terms of Office

In referencing the Arts Commission policies and procedures adopted in 2004, the term for a chair is to be two years. As the current chair has served a two-year term, options include electing a new chair, changing the policy or suspending the policy for one year. Designating a vice chair is essential for succession and needs to be put in place with any of the options. Barbara Jirsa, current chair, excused herself from the discussion.

Motion: To suspend the two-year policy for the Arts Commission chairperson for one year (2010). **MSC**

Barbara Jirsa will serve for one more year. Rochelle Wyatt, Bala Subramanian and Deborah Akerstrom were recognized as possible candidates for Vice Chair and will meet with Barbara to discuss the responsibilities.

Youth Connections

Discussion was held regarding the Commission's desire to have a youth "thread" run through the programming this year. Barbara Jirsa attended the Kiwanis meeting and found interest in the club's support of a chalk art activity for either middle school or high school students. If the project(s) were selected by the Kiwanis group, there is a potential for funding as well as volunteer support.

Another suggestion has been made to create a mural or design for the skateboard park. Those that use the park would like to have it professionally designed.

Parks Department PRO Plan

The Parks Department will be holding a number of public forums to discuss community interests in programs and new facilities. As the Arts Commission is under the umbrella of the Parks Department, hearing what the community wants in the way of cultural programs and amenities would be very valuable.

Commissioners signed up to attend the various forums and will bring back the responses to the March Commission meeting.

Reflecting Pool Design

The Parks Department has asked for suggestions to re-design the Reflecting Pool that has been drained for the winter. Maintenance has become an issue and now requires a new approach. The Arts Commission has been asked to make some suggestions. One idea might be to create a water feature similar to one at the Bellevue Botanical Gardens. It might be suitable for this space as well. It is

made up of flat rocks/stones with spaces between where water flows very gently. It was agreed that looking into this possibility would be worth while and Carol Ross will follow-up. Another suggestion would be to put out a call for proposals to artists or landscape designers for creative solutions. The Commission agreed to give it another month's worth of thought for more suggestions.

Committee Assignments

Work in each of the identified areas of focus was discussed.

Visual: Barbara, Molly, Jingyu and Vinita will be working on the next exhibitions. Sannamish artist David Allison will show his work in the spring time slot. A flag theme will be followed for the summer. Five large flags belonging to one of the City planners will be displayed from the ceiling. One idea is to put out a call to the community for creative flags designed in a specific size to line City Hall.

Performing Arts: Jingyu, Daphne, Rochelle and Molly will be working on ideas and partnerships for this art form.

Community Building: Carol, Molly, Anna and Barbara will work on the Art Fair, Festivals and ethnic cultural events.

Public Relations/Marketing/Venue Management: Bala, Rochelle, Daphne, Deborah, Vinita and Barbara will support the audience development for programs planned by the other committees. Included will be the website for cultural arts activities.

Discussion was held regarding the methods committees will use to meet whether it is face to face, e-mail, conference calls or a combination.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.