

Sammamish Arts Commission
April 19, 2010
Sammamish City Hall
6:30 pm

Attendance: Barbara Jirsa, Jingyu Li, Molly Strange, Carol Ross, Bala Subramanian, Daphne Robinson, Deborah Akerstrom

Absent: Rochelle Wyatt, Bharath Sankaranarayan, Vintia Karun

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

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 pm.

Approval of the Minutes

Motion: To acknowledge the electronic approval the minutes from the March 15, 2010 meeting of the Arts Commission. **MSC**

Finance Report

Lyman Howard reported that the request to carry forward \$2,900 for the Simple Measures performance and December art installation will go before the City Council on April 20. These projects were begun in 2009. The Arts Commission budget has approximately 85% of its funding left.

Sammamish Days Event

Dawn Sanders, the City Volunteer Coordinator, discussed a new event being planned for August. The focus will be to focus on the cultures that make up this community. The addition of a cultural arts and crafts element is to follow in ensuing years. For 2010 the event will consist of paid performances and volunteer musical groups. Fruitful discussion was held regarding potential contacts with ethnic performance group, logo designers and the possibility of combining the current SAC sponsored juried Art Fair in 2011.

Art Fair Discussion

The Commission offered thoughts on the definition of *local artists* given the need for participating Art Fair artists to volunteer in the planning for the event. Emphasis on ability to participate will help artists self select. King County/Eastside will be the focus for 2011.

Washington Recreation and Parks Association Cultural Summit

Barbara Jirsa and Carol Ross attended the Cultural Summit held in Tacoma and reported that the event was very informative. Kudos to Jessi Richardson who served as to co-chair for the event. Keynote speaker Amy McBride spoke to "why bother" with the arts. She made a most compelling case for the importance of the arts to the building of community and creative problem solving. Funding arts programming through a percent for art from publicly funded capital projects was a topic of discussion. SAC would like to pursue this discussion with the City. Many ideas from the network of arts organizations attending were discussed.

Alternate Commission Position

Alternate Vinita Karun will be relocating to the San Francisco Bay Area and will be resigning her position. Lyman Howard will investigate the steps for filling the vacant position.

Fall and Winter Parks and Recreation Guide

Carol Ross noted that the fall guide will also include Arts Commission events. The deadline is the first of June. Each of the committees will need to get the information to Carol by that time. This is a great opportunity to build awareness and attendance.

Committee Structure

Barbara Jirsa asked that the Commission revisit the SAC committee structure. Commissioners have taken on too much! Consolidating the committees to three and making hard choices relative to the projects taken on by each. Incorporating others in planning and execution of projects/events is essential. It was agreed that presenting quality programming in a professional manner is key. It is essential to have the support of the group as a whole.

Performing Arts – Rochelle and Daphne

Working on the possibility of a total of 3 events in 2010.

Visual Arts – Molly, Jingyu and Barbara

Planning 4/5 exhibits per year

PR/Communications – Bala, Carol, Barth and Deborah

Communication streams, outreach cultural calendar, Facebook and Twitter pages

Art Fair will be its own committee, sending a representative to the Commission to keep the communication open and needs met. Anna Macrae and Carol will be the team in place for now.

Discussion was held regarding a meeting schedule that would include a one hour committee meeting just prior to the Commission meeting. The meeting in May will be with core members then evaluate how we move to the new model.

Committee Update

PR/Communications. Bala noted that we are getting closer to the calendar addition. A meeting to discuss the mechanics for the set-up and policy is being scheduled. Facebook page will be added very soon. Discussion was held regarding posting sites for SAC programs in an effort to build awareness and attendance.

Visual Arts. The opening for Codex Severin was held. The addition of music by Jingyu's daughter added a wonderful component to the event. The music delighted visitors attending the opening as well as members of the Planning Commission. The next exhibit will open on June 14. Flags will be the theme – historic flags, community designed flags and an exhibit of Companion flags. A photography exhibit and fiber exhibit will follow. Winter of 2011 will focus on the Chinese community in the manner of the Sari exhibit with the East Indian community.

Performance Arts – Simple Measures Performance. Daphne has organized this concert and all are asked to attend, help set-up and greet the attendees on Tuesday night. This will be a highlight for the Commission. Also discussed was

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm. Committees convened for further discussion.