

**Sammamish Art Commission
Meeting
June 21, 2010
Sammamish City Hall
6:30pm**

Minutes

Attendance

Commissioners

Barbara Jirsa, Carol Ross, Molly Strange, Rochelle Wyatt, Deb Akerstrom, Daphne Robinson, Bharath Sankaranarayan, Bala Subramanian

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

Guests: Linda Fruska, Deputy Director Parks & Recreation, Karen Able, Executive Director ArtEast

Excused: Jingu Li

Call to Order

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

Approval of the Minutes

Minutes of the May 17, 2010 approved electronically – approved

2010 Budget and Financial Report

Lyman Howard reported the following: original budget \$20,800+ 4Culture \$5,000 Grant and carry forward \$2900 (\$28,700). Commission has spent to date \$4033 leaving a \$24,667 balance.

Reports

- Sign up to receive e-mail alerts. City updates on the webpage will include Arts events/news when the Art Commission page is updated. People can sign up and Bala will then add to face book
- Public Works Tree Stump Project – there is no update on the status of this project to use the tree stumps for an artistic purpose.
- October Arts Crush (we need to fill out all the activities we have going on) consortium of groups looking to create an arts focus during the month of October through a marketing campaign.

Parks Department PRO Plan Report/Presentation

Linda Fruska, Deputy Director Parks & Recreation updated the Commission on the status of the PRO Plan, the results of the community forums and the City-wide telephone survey as next step in the plan. Part of the survey is to ask what the community would like to see helping set project, program and budget priorities. Linda discussed the need to see beyond using City Hall for venues.

Linda requested that a member of the Commission become a liaison to the Parks Board and Daphne Robinson volunteered to serve in that capacity.

Neighboring Arts Commissions Networking

ArtEast - Karen Able – ArtEast, Executive Director

Premise for discussion: How might Sammamish Arts Commission be able to collaborate with ArtEast? Karen discussed what is coming, plans for an Art Center, Swedish Hospital, Issaquah Treasures, Collective Memory Project, Art Docent for the schools as these reach into Sammamish the most.

ArtEast was organized five years ago and has quickly become an Eastside organization. 30% of its members have Issaquah zip codes and 25% have Sammamish zip codes, equally split between 98705 & 98074.

ArtEast co-op gallery has close to 50% Issaquah and 50% Sammamish participation. Its Front Street location serves Issaquah as well as North Bend, Maple Valley, Sammamish and beyond. The main objective for the organization has always been to secure an Art Center where people could learn and make art as well as sell art. The lease in the current location was up and Lewis Hardware store space was available. Southeast King County and the I-90 corridor is a central location where artists can be served and the enterprise is easily integrated into a downtown economy as a sales generator.

An agreed upon letter of intent has been signed for a lease agreement in this new space and the goal is to have the space operational by Salmon Days. The 3250 sq. ft space (roughly 3 x's their existing location size) will be developed into a bullpen studio environment where artists can work and a co-op gallery can be located.

Funding is 50% through co-op sales which covers lease, non-profit programs about 1/3 comes from Issaquah Art Commission, 1/3 small foundation and business type grants, membership fees are relatively small.

Corporate and higher tiers of membership will be developed. The long term vision is predicated on survival over the next five years. Retail co-op should increase the ability to offer wider range/categories of art for sale as well as expanded class offerings.

A regional focus could see Sammamish Boys/Girls club facility as an extension of ArtEast and used for classes such as Seniors Making Art and the Photo workshops etc. for the citizens of Sammamish where interest is high and space limited. Working jointly with other communities is a benefit for all - the brand being solidified to show all are under one ArtEast umbrella.

The important step now is grass roots fund-raising and new members. The biggest contributions have come from Sammamish. Once the lease is signed they will get more aggressive in their fundraising. They will go out more broadly also working closely with 4Culture, Issaquah Arts Commission.

Discussion included:

- Importance of design of the new Sammamish Town Center, and the incorporation of spaces for art making and display. SAC will continue to re-enforce the need for these elements..
- Bala would like to link in FACEBOOK with Art East.
- Great opportunity for a strong presence from Sammamish.
- *Collective memory* – a program started about 3yrs ago pairing members of the community who somehow have added to the fabric of the

community. An artist creates something that they learned from the individual that had the history.

- ISSAQUAH TREASURES, brought people to into a round table to find out what was important in their community
- New Swedish Hospital – local and regional artist’s work will be purchased for the facility.
- SAC has a real opportunity to build a relationship with ArtEast that is meaningful and beneficial to the community and the region.
- Promote individual memberships and a SAC contribution – Carol will make a presentation on this in JULY.

Reports cont’d

- Art Fair – Art Commissioners recruiting for volunteers will dedicate a greeting table in the foyer and have a sign-up sheet for shifts.
- An Arts Commission Banner – check the website for coming art events, face book, Art Commission presents etc.
- Commission needs to revisit the budget proposal for 2010. Daphne as treasurer requested that expenses to date be forwarded to her along with projected expenses.
- Molly announced that Ellin Laminer will be the focus of the winter fiber exhibit

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.