

City of Sammamish Arts Commission – Minutes - Monday, January 26, 2015
Sammamish City Hall, 801 228th Ave SE, Sammamish, Washington

Attendees

Commissioners: Chair Anne Schaefer, Claradell Shedd, Steve Wright, Barbara Jirsa, Priti Joshi, Ramu Iyer, Kelli Ron & Lin Garretson

Staff: Joe Guinasso, Assistant City Manager/Director of Finance & IT; Allison Gubata, Administrative Assistant

Alternates: Carole Weaks; Rituja Indapure; Mandagere Shashidhar

Excused: Margaret Rosenow

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Note Approval of November 17, 2014 Minutes - Commission Meeting Minutes approved via email.

Budget and Financial Report YTD 2014

- 2013 Carry forward \$1,519
- 2013 4Culture Grant \$6,500
- 2014 Budget \$25,800
- 2014 4Culture Grant \$6,500

2014 TOTAL Budget \$ 40,319

2014 YTD Expenditures \$37,672.30

2014 YTD Available Funds \$2,646.70

- Carry forwards may be used when you are working within the same budget cycle.
- Commissioners are not expected to use personal funding for Arts Commission expenses.

Holiday Production “It’s a Wonderful Life” Recap – Commissioner Wright received feedback that “Christmas came early in Sammamish” was the buzz from the 1052 attendees over the two nights the play was performed. We have tapped into the desire to continue, to explore, share and express many more stories to tell. Response was very good; it served its purpose, made people happy. The actors and audience were asking what we were going to do next and how they could be involved. Figure out how to navigate and continue to cultivate the interest in the community. Most attendees were from Sammamish, also from Redmond, Issaquah and some from Seattle. The box office on the house maybe figuring out a better way to use this next time. The scope of Steve’s expertise, so talented in many aspects of bringing this production to the community. The talent that came out was impressive. It was also a one of kind with the show having unique qualities.

The EX3 Teen Center is interested in collaborating with the Arts Commission and is considering hosting a teen show. If the Arts Commission cultivates this opportunity, then let the teen center grow from there.

Opera under the stars with a show designed around Francis Garcia who has reached out to the Arts Commission with an interest in performing on the community level. The Arts Commission could make this an educational and entertaining event. Resources and space/venue requirements are needed. Our focus is listening to the public and asks ourselves how the event serves the community. Target period is March 2015.

Action Item: *Commissioner Ron to seek out theater grant opportunities.*

All potential grants need to be run through the Finance Department prior to being executed. Fund raising is not permitted; anonymous donations are o.k. sponsorships require solicitation.

“NEST” Building Project – Chair Schaefer and Commissioner Ron met with Deputy Parks Director Endelman, Project Manager Hilde and artEAST Artist Karen White to discuss collaboration in construction and placement of a stick sculpture in a Sammamish park. Big Rock Park was identified as the location for the structure and collection of sticks, which will be gathered by the city parks crews when they are trimming trees. Artist White recommended that the sticks not be stored in a covered area, allowing them to get wet from the rain making them more pliable for construction of the sculpture. The Commission will follow-up with the Parks Department, as this project is perfect for the plan for the park. It might be a nest or something else for the event. artEAST is providing the artist Karen White and artEAST should be recognized during this project. We can spin off the project and let them take off with it. FALL will be the actual project structure.

Action Item: *Commissioner Ron to seek out theater grant opportunities. An estimated \$5K is required for this project.*

Garden Gate Update – Commissioner Jirsa is working on the contract with selected artist Garth Edwards for 3 garden gates to be created and installed in the Community Garden adjacent to Sammamish City Hall. We anticipate the contract will be executed by the end of January. The Arts Commission is very pleased that experienced artist Garth Edwards is willing to go forward with this project. We want to be sure that the Arts Commission get recognition, a plaque at the site along with recognition in the local paper as well as other appropriate marketing.

LEGO Event Recap – Chair Schaefer along with Master LEGO Builder Dan Parker hosted several hundred participants throughout the day. The class and open play went smoothly and the kids really enjoyed this event.

Exhibits – Commissioner Jirsa commented that it would be great for the artists who exhibit if they sold something from their shows here.

Review of 2015 Arts Commission Calendar- of programming and art exhibits were reviewed, with a targeted total budget of \$30,000 to implement.

“Life Stories” – February 28, Commissioner Garretson along with Joan Gordon will be hosting at Bellwood Apartments, a donated venue for this event. The storyteller will be keeping their finished product. It is very flexible and personal process and product.

This collaborative cross-generational event has received attention from a community in Minnesota on how to start a program like this in their community.

Public art –The Commission would like to look at options of purchasing a piece of public art in 2015. Consideration is being giving to a wood or natural material and design sculpture to compliment the landscape in one of the roundabouts.

Arts Fair – The Arts Fair sub-committee Chair and Arts Commission have decided not to put funding into the “Encounters” part of the Arts Fair in 2015. Consideration for a temporary large sculpture garden is being considered. As in years past, having music is an added benefit at the Arts Fair and it will be included in the 2015 budget.

Communication – Commissioners were asked to please assess their needs in advance for volunteers and city staff at their event. Advanced planning on the part of the Commissioners helps with planning city staffing and outreach to volunteers .

Social Media and Marketing – Alternate Shashidhar will be evaluating and assisting Commissioners in utilizing Social Media and other marketing resources.

Meeting Adjourned 8:05 p.m.

Next regular SAC meeting – Monday, February 23, 2015 – 6:30 pm