

## **Sammamish Arts Commission – Minutes – November 23, 2015**

Sammamish City Hall, 801 228<sup>th</sup> Ave SE, Sammamish, Washington

### **Attendees:**

**Commissioners:** Acting Chair Barbara Jirsa, Claradell Shedd, Lin Garretson, Priti Joshi, Ramu Iyer and Margaret Rosenow. Alternate Carol Weaks. **Staff:** Joseph Guinasso, Finance Director; Colleen Rupke, Administrative Assistant.

**Absent:** Chair Anne Schaefer, Commissioners Steve Wright and Kelli Ron; Alternates Mandagere Shashidhar and Rituja Indapure

### **Call to Order**

**Acting Chair Barbara Jirsa**

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m. by Acting Chair Barbara Jirsa.

**Approval of October 26, 2015 Minutes** – The Commission approved the October 26, 2015 meeting minutes via email.

### **Budget and Financial Report YTD**

**Joe Guinasso**

- 2014 Carry forward \$ \$10,300 proposed to City Council in May 2015
- 2015 Budget \$32,300 (includes \$6,500 4Culture Grant)
- 2015 Additional \$1,000 4Culture Grant
- **2015 TOTAL Budget \$ 43,600**
- 2015 YTD Expenditures \$ 31,572.32
- 2015 YTD Available Funds \$ 12,027.68
- Anticipated year-end balance of \$760.81
- 2016 Budget – City Council has flagged an additional budget allocation of \$10,000 for the Arts Commission so that the Commission has roughly the same amount of money with which to operate next year as they did this year. There will not be additional funding appropriated for the Klahanie annexation this budget cycle. Director Guinasso reminded the Commission that the Arts Chair will be presenting the Arts Commission Report to the Council the first part of next year and could address some of the proposed budget considerations for 2017-2018.

### **City Roundabouts**

**Claradell Shedd**

Commissioner Shedd reported that she just received the contract from Director Guinasso, following his review of it, so she will be taking the contract to the artist now. The roundabout art will be moving forward. Commissioner Shedd reported that she has spoken with different neighborhoods about proposed artwork in their roundabouts, seeking their ideas and input, but has met with a lot of apathy. However, there is a lot of excitement about the fire station roundabout installation.

## **Theater Update**

## **Steve Wright**

Commissioner Wright was not present because he is in the middle of rehearsal schedule for the Holiday production. It is unknown if he is need of help with any part of the show but the Commissioners will email him and ask. The Christmas production will be “A Christmas Survival Guide” and slated for Dec. 10-11 and 18-19.

## **Special Arts Sammamish**

## **Lin Garretson**

Commissioner Garretson gave a report of the attendance and outcome of the Theater of Possibility workshop held at Bellewood in November. This was a workshop of drama, role-playing and social interaction that taught life skills for special needs students. The event was well-attended, well-received and considered a huge success.

The Gen-Fusion workshop, also held in November, paired teens/tweens with Seniors and was also a huge success. This was the first occurrence of this particular workshop. 64 students participated and registration had to be cut off because the registrant totals would have increased even more. Many Seniors brought their own grandchildren which was such a nice result of this event—providing a venue for families and cross-generations to participate in a fun and creative event together. Commissioner Garretson advised the Commission that this event is one that the Commission will want to sponsor again. She reported that the Seniors were so excited to have the connection with the teens/tweens, and they loved to see the product that they made.

Commissioner Garretson reported that the event “Life Stories” is coming up in February.

Commissioner Garretson reported that she has the same five events that she wants to continue with each year and she learns something new about each event each year. Through these events, we are connecting people in the community with each other through art.

## **Exhibits**

## **Barbara Jirsa**

Commissioner Jirsa reported that artist Don Fels will be exhibiting in City Hall in January, beginning on the 18<sup>th</sup> [NOTE: The actual after-the-fact corrected date for the commencement of this exhibit will be January 19, due to the National Holiday on January 18.]. Panels of historical airplanes have been used to fashion art for this exhibit. It is an historical exhibit with a theme of “remembering”. Artist Fels will be out of the country during the time of exhibit. Jirsa reported that Don’s son will be giving a talk on the history at the upcoming artist opening event. Rather than a reception, Commissioner Jirsa would like to do something like a Salon in partnership with ArtEast.

Commissioner Jirsa reported that one of the art pieces from the current Van Slyke exhibit was made especially for the City and specifically for the concrete pillar in the lobby corridor. It is a metal sculpture of birds flying upward. Commissioner Jirsa would like the Commission to purchase this piece for permanent installment in City Hall. The cost is \$1,500. Commissioner Shedd made a motion that the Commission approve the purchase of the art piece. Commissioner Rosenow seconded the motion. The motion authorizing the purchase of the metal birds sculpture was unanimously approved by the Commission.

Commissioner Shedd expressed a desire to have an article prepared for local media about the purchased piece and the history/story behind it. Commissioner Jirsa reported that the sculpture's artist, Michele Van Slyke, is in France at the moment. When she returns, Commissioner Jirsa will coordinate the purchase and obtain the necessary background information for the press release.

## **2016 Planning**

**Barbara Jirsa**

The Commissioners agreed that they should discuss in January setting up an inclusive process for planning, proposing, purchasing and installing permanent public art.

Commissioner Jirsa would like to see a cultural exhibit added to the event roster for next year. There was some discussion about the previous Sahri exhibit and the Chinese exhibit and the events that resulted from those exhibits. Commissioner Jirsa would like the Commission to consider one for the upcoming years. A cultural exhibit has not been on display in the City for a couple years. Commissioner Jirsa expressed a desire to see the connections made with different cultures in the community with art as the focus. The Commission discussed the possibility of focusing more on the art rather than a specific culture. Commissioner Shedd shared that it has been her observation that diversity is coming to a lot of the events in the City. Commissioner Garretson said it would be great to fuse all cultural groups rather than drawing lines of distinction between the cultures by a specific cultural event.

The Commission agreed to postpone 2016 budget planning discussions for January. The Commission was encouraged to e-mail their 2016 ideas to the Chair for future budgetary and calendar planning.

## **Open discussion**

**All**

Commissioner Shedd would like to explore the facilities available at Klahanie for events and look at bringing an event to their location, in order to facilitate further incorporation of that community into the Sammamish community following the formal annexation process. Commissioner Garretson offered that the Commission might consider locating the Life Stories class in February out in Klahanie next year instead of at Bellewood, if it feasible and appropriate.

**Adjourn** – There being no further business, the Commission was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

**\*NO DECEMBER MEETING**

**Next regular SAC meeting – Monday, January 25, 2016 – 6:30 pm**