

Sammamish Arts Commission
March 15, 2010
Sammamish City Hall
6:30 pm

Attendance: Barbara Jirsa, Rochelle Wyatt, Jingyu Li, Molly Strange, Carol Ross, Bala Subramanian, Bharath Sankaranarayan, Daphne Robinson

Absent: Deborah Akerstrom, Vinita 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 approve the minutes of the February 22, 2010 meeting of the Arts Commission. **MSC**

Motion: To amend the policies of the Arts Commission to include the approval of the minutes electronically. **MSC**

Finance Report

2010 Budget and Financial Report – Lyman Howard reviewed expenses of \$603.19 spend to date. Lyman reported that approval from City Council is still needed for the carryover from 2009 to cover the approximately \$2,700 for the Simple Measures performance and payment of the installation invoice from *Hardware: A Love Story* that has now been submitted.

Parks Department PRO Plan Community Meetings Forums

Commissioners have been attending the Parks Commission community meetings collecting community comment regarding the arts/cultural input that included the following:

- Concerts at Pine Lake, summer concerts at Beaver Lake
- Summer events
- Art displayed at City Hall and the variety of art (something for everyone)
- Enjoy the orange sculptures in Issaquah Highlands

Art-related items that need improvement and wish list items:

- Art exhibition location in addition to City Hall
- More youthful “hip” art displays
- Cultural/Arts Performing Center (came up at several meetings)
- Movies in the park
- Progressive chalk art
- More attendance at art events
- More awareness at art events
- Events listed and featured in the City Parks & Recreation guide

Being included in the Pro Plan meetings has been a good thing. Barbara has been in communication with the Parks Commissioners to help them understand the relationship between parks and arts. The feedback from the forums will be taken to City Council to help design a strategic plan that meets the needs of the community and that includes the cultural art component. This is a valuable process. Relationship building and good communication will be a priority for both commissions.

Library Space

Carol Ross has met with librarian Robin Gabler. The large conference, space as well as other areas within the library, is available to the Arts Commission as a venue option for various art programming throughout the year. We would coordinate with the managing librarian for any arrangements. Other programmatic partnerships and Arts Commission collaboration will be explored. The Library has some budget for programming.

City Hall Water Feature Recommendations

Carol researched the water feature at the Bellevue Botanical Garden. The flat stones/concrete blocks have water moving between them, creating an interesting walkway that keeps the water just below the surface. A circulating pump keeps the water moving. Natural stone shapes or leaf shapes might be options. It might be possible to incorporate some native plants in the design. Deborah Akerstrom's idea is to have copper salmon or eagles coming out of the pond, extending out of the feature. Another idea would be the incorporation of copper Sockeye salmon providing a three dimensional aspect to the water feature. Copper and gravel would act as filtering agents for the water. Another suggestion would be the use of cast glass rocks and/or salmon that would play off that used in the *Confluence* sculpture adjacent to the water feature. The negative spaces between the stone could also be in shapes such as salmon. The use of glass could be enhanced lighting coming up through the glass. The use of LED lights would add another green, sustainable material.

WRPA Conference

The Recreation and Parks Conference is being held on April 13th in Tacoma. Jessi Richardson, Director of Sammamish Parks & Recreation is one of the co-chairs. The \$69 registration fee could be paid through the Arts Commission budget for those able to attend. The planned workshops would be a benefit for anyone able to attend.

Upcoming Commons Gallery Exhibit

Barbara Jirsa reported that the work of Sammamish artist David Allison will be featured April 7 through June 11. A marketing post card has been designed and will be available for distribution beginning March 22nd. An e-mail version will be sent for additional distribution and a press release is ready for the newspapers. The opening reception will be from 6-8:00 pm on the April 7th. Arrangements for music, refreshments, volunteers and a banquet permit were organized. De-installation of the Hardware exhibit will be done on Monday, March 22nd.

PR/Marketing/Venue Committee

The committee will be meeting to get the facebook page up. They will be meeting with the City webmaster for standards i.e.: logos etc. – Jamie McKay (Carol will send to Bala) we should have a list of artists. E-mail lists from the past and new additions will be incorporated into the distribution.

Performing Arts

Simple Measures Performance scheduled for April 20 is well underway. Daphne has posters and cards for distribution and a press release will be out by the end of the week.

Chalk Art Projects

Barbara has been in conversation with middle school students and Dawn Sanders in creating a chalk art project to be held in conjunction with the Farmer's Market. Lynne Handloss and the Youth Board are working on the idea of a larger chalk event that would involve high school students and a larger venue and scope. This group may also be willing to collaborate on a design for the skateboard park.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm. Individual committees convened to continue the organizational work. It may be of benefit to add time to the monthly Arts Commission meetings for committees as finding agreeable meeting times has been difficult.