

Sammamish Arts Commission – Minutes – January 25, 2016

Sammamish City Hall, 801 228th Ave SE, Sammamish, Washington

Attendees:

Commissioners: Chair Anne Schaefer, Barbara Jirsa, Claradell Shedd, Lin Garretson, Priti Joshi, Steve Wright and Margaret Rosenow. Also present: New Commission-appointee Jennifer Kacsmarek (taking effect on Feb. 1, 2016) **Staff:** Joseph Guinasso, Finance Director; Colleen Rupke, Administrative Assistant. **Citizen** Lynn Stevens.

Absent: Commissioners Ramu Iyer and Kelli Ron; Alternates Carol Weaks, Mandagere Shashidhar and Rituja Indapure

Call to Order

Chair Anne Schaefer

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m. by Chair Anne Schaefer.

Approval of November 23, 2015 Minutes – The Commission approved the November 23, 2015 meeting minutes via email.

Volunteer Awards – Chair Schaefer handed out certificates and medals to those on the Commission who were unable to attend and/or receive them at the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner held at the end of last year. Special recognition was given to Commissioner Jirsa for being selected as the 2015 Volunteer of the Year.

Awards handed out at the Commission Meeting were:

Commission Chair Anne Schaefer – Silver Medal for 392.5 volunteer hours

Commissioner Claradell Shedd – Gold Medal for 796 volunteer hours

Commissioner Margaret Rosenow – Bronze Medal for 201.5 volunteer hours

Commissioner Steve Wright – Bronze, Silver and Gold Medals for 1403.75 hours

Budget and Financial Report Year-End 2015

Joe Guinasso

- 2014 Carry forward \$10,300 .00
- 2015 Budget \$32,300.00 (includes \$6,500 4Culture Grant)
- 2015 Additional \$1,000.00 4Culture Grant
- Sammamish Friends Donation (Garden Gate) \$75.07
 - **2015 TOTAL Budget \$ 43,675.07**
- 2015 Year-End Expenditures \$ 35,384.71
- 2015 Year-End Balance \$ 2,500.45

- 2016 Budget \$32,300.00 (includes \$6,500 4Culture Grant)
- 2016 Additional \$1,000.00 4Culture Grant
- 2015-2016 Mid-Bi Adjustment \$10,000.00
 - **2016 TOTAL BUDGET \$43,300.00**

Director Guinasso advised that some adjustments needed to be made to the financial report presented to the Commission:

- \$50.00 should be added to the year-end balance for unused Poetry Month funds;
- \$1,800.00 should be deducted from the year-end balance for Wooden-O funds that likely need to be transferred to the Parks Department as the Commission's annual commitment. Director Guinasso will check with Parks and verify that funds have not been paid this year.
- Any additional receipts for reimbursement or invoice billings that need yet to be submitted for 2015 expenses will also affect the final adjusted year-end balance.

City Roundabouts

Claradell Shedd

Commissioner Shedd reported that she had received the signed contracts back from Staff to give to the artist. The Artist, Al Zold, has finished three sculptures. Commissioner Shedd and Artist Zold will be meeting with City Public Works staff to coordinate installations of the art work in the roundabouts. 2016 will see the installation of three to four more art pieces. Commissioner Shedd indicated that Public Works is planning another roundabout (this was revealed at the recent Council Retreat). Two full roundabouts are proposed for the SE 4th improvements (as well as two more traffic circles), as part of the Metropolitan Market development.

Events Upcoming:

Art Exhibit Reception - Thurs., Jan. 28 at 6 p.m. is a reception for Don Fels' art exhibit currently on display in City Hall. Commissioner Jirsa encouraged Commissioners to attend. This particular exhibit reception will be featuring his son who will give the history behind the exhibit, since Artist Don Fels is out of the country.

Life Stories Workshop – Sat., Feb. 27 at 1:00 p.m. – Commissioner Garretson reported that there will be a limit of 30 students for the workshop. The Library expressed interest in hearing more about this workshop / program and possibly partnering with the Arts Commission in this event. Commissioner Garretson will be meeting with the Librarians soon to discuss this possibility. Also SoCo Art will be meeting with Commissioner Garretson to discuss the possibility of partnering on Special Arts Sammamish events.

Clay Day – Sat., March 19 at 1:00 p.m.

Au-Some Artists – Sat., April 30 – 30 teens have already volunteered to help with this event.

Commissioner Garretson also announced that her Special Arts Sammamish program has established private non-profit status. "Special Arts Sammamish" will remain but "Special Arts To Go" is the name of the non-profit.

Budget and Current Proposed Schedule

Chair Schaefer distributed to the Commission the draft placeholder calendar for 2016 and budget placeholders handout for budget discussions.

Volunteers will be needed for the Poetry event in April – Commissioner Garretson will speak with Library and others about the need for volunteers.

Simple Measures wants to return to Sammamish in May with a possible Mozart performance. Commissioner Garretson suggested using the same online ticketing source that Commissioner Wright uses (BrownPaperTickets). **Commissioner Garretson moved and Commissioner Rosenow seconded the motion to bring Simple Measures back into the calendar for 2016. By Consent, the Commission will bring Simple Measures back into the 2016 Event Roster.** The challenge will be selecting the most optimal day of the week for the performance. Commissioner Shedd suggested looking into a Sunday matinee. There was discussion about continuing to use Pine Lake Covenant for the venue of this event. Chair Schaefer will check and see if there will be a need to rent a piano for the event. The suggested budget amount will be \$3,500.

There was discussion of locating the **Ladies' Musical Club** event at Bellewood. Commissioner Garretson advised Bellewood has said they would love to have musical groups perform there. The residents of Bellewood would increase the attendance numbers.

Theater—Commissioner Wright had to leave the meeting in the middle of budget discussions but reported that, in his estimation, big productions will require approximately \$6,000 each to produce. Commissioner Wright has asked for \$18,000 from the budget this year. Since this is a large part of the Commission budget, the Commission needs to decide what focus of events it would like to have and fund. Director Guinasso suggests that in February, Commissioner Wright should bring his theater proposal for the year (and budget request) and also provide the Commission with more details on his private non-profit organization. Commissioner Wright could ask the City Council to sponsor Theater in Sammamish and then the Arts Commission could sponsor one of the large theater events.

Public Art / Roundabouts—Commissioner Shedd asked for additional funds for three to four roundabout art pieces for 2016, a budget request of up to \$5,000 (this total amount should include tax, etc. of all the pieces). Commissioner Shedd said she would make sure that was included in the contract with the artist. **Commissioner Rosenow moved that \$5,000 be allocated to roundabout art and Commissioner Jirsa seconded the motion. The Commission by consent will allot \$5,000 to roundabout art.**

55+ Art – There was discussion about increasing the amount allocated to this program. \$1,800 was suggested. No decision was made on allocation amount.

Wooden O—Chair Schaefer asked if the Commission would like to again sponsor the Wooden O event. The Commissioners agreed the sponsorship should continue. The amount suggested by the Parks Department for 2016 was \$1,800. No decision was reached on allocation amount.

Sammamish Nights—*The Commission decided to lower the allotted amount for Sammamish Nights to \$1,000 (down from \$1,500 in 2015)*

Ladies Musical—*It was reported that, if this event is moved to Bellewood, the cost would be \$0. This met with the Commission's agreement.*

Art Fair - \$4,000 is proposed for this event (unchanged from last year).

Additional proposals: funding for public art, a film festival, Bollywood Festival and additional funds for theater.

Commissioner Joshi has a suggestion for a new cultural event but will write up a proposal for the Commission to consider at the next meeting. Her proposal is a dance event. Commissioner Joshi will speak more with Chair Schaefer about the event to develop the proposal. Commissioner Shedd suggested considering partnering with the Indian Temple (pink building on 228th) to piggy-back onto their festival event.

Public Art Discussion

Commissioner Rosenow asked the Commission to consider whether it wants to pursue obtaining more public art for the city of Sammamish through different funds from the city. Several council members had at one time indicated there was a possibility for the SAC to suggest art pieces to the council for approval of purchase or commissioning. The Commission was asked to consider whether it wants to have an Artist in Residence or whether the Commission should seek grants, or which direction the Commission would like to go for obtaining public art. Commissioner Garretson suggested that Sammamish consider an arrangement like Kirkland where art comes and goes for specific time periods and that is a way to consider what to secure for permanent acquisition.

New Events Discussion

Klahanie Transition Committee—Commissioner Garretson met with a core group from Klahanie and discussed with them incorporating them into the Community through the different City groups (parks, SAC, etc.). The Klahanie core group would like to offer venues for arts and recreation events, though they have no indoor venues to offer but some very good outdoor venues to offer instead. Commissioner Garretson spoke of potential outdoor events that could be located in that community, incorporating their families and kids, etc. Commissioner Garretson encouraged the Commission to consider locating some kind of outdoor event in Klahanie this year.

Open discussion

All

Allison Gubata has requested the participation of the Arts Commission in assisting with the decorating and planning of City Manager Ben Yazici's retirement party. Staff would like to incorporate a Turkish Bazaar type theme, as Ben so enjoyed that art display and event some time ago of the Commission's. Allison has requested volunteers from the Commission. ***Commissioners Shedd and Kacsmarek volunteered.*** Commissioner Jirsa advised that the Seattle Center has some good resources. New Commissioner Kacsmarek advised that her daughter spent last year in Turkey and could help with some ideas.

Adjourn – There being no further business, the Commission was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Next regular SAC meeting – Monday, February 22, 2016 – 6:30 pm