City of Auburn Arts Commission, City Hall Annex, One Main, Conference Room 1
Tuesday, March 1, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Present: Charlotte Gollnick, Jan Jensen, Patricia Judd, Heather Longhurst, Colleen Maloney, DeNae McGee, Donna Smart, Arts Coordinator Maija McKnight Excused: Nancy Colson, Cary Davidson, Trudi Moses, Dan Norman, Ronie Schwend Guests: Duanna Richardson, Lauren Flemister, City of Auburn Urban Design Planner, Planning & Development, Duanna Richards, Community Programs Coordinator, Mayors Office

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I. Call to Order, Approval of Minutes, Introductions and Approval of Minutes:
Chair McGee called the meeting to order at 4:29 pm. Commissioner Jensen moved to approve the February 2016 meeting minutes. Commissioner Gollnick seconded the motion. All approved. Motion approved.

II. City of Auburn Sister Cities Program
Community Programs Coordinator, Duanna Richards provided an informational presentation on the City of Auburn Washington Sister Cities Association (AWSCA). The AWSCA is a volunteer organization whose focus is to promote, organize and maintain sister city relationships with similar communities around the world. The AWSCA provides the framework for each of the Auburn Sister City committees to engage in fostering international relations through educational, cultural, recreational, governmental and economic activities. City of Auburn Sister Cities include Tamba, Japan, Pyeongchang, Korea, Guanghan, China and in the planning stages of agreement is Mola di Bari, Italy

The Sister City program is coordinated by the AWSCA, an independent non-profit with board representation from the City of Auburn, Chamber of Commerce, Tourism Board, Auburn School District, Green River College, as well as a representative from the Auburn Arts Commission. Greg Watson, former Arts Commissioner, served as the Arts Commission representative for the past six years and are now seeking a new representative to serve on this board. Richards noted, that much of the exchange relationship is cultural and arts is such an integral component of culture that this representative is key Arts Commissioners are encouraged to consider serving on this board and asked to contact Duanna Richards directly with questions and interest.

An upcoming project in which the Sister Cities program has been working with Arts staff is for the development and creation of Auburn-themed art notecards. A project similar had been completed three years prior, and asked artists to submit Auburn-themed artwork that could be reproduced on notecards an other items as part of gift packages that could be brought during visits and exchanges. The artwork is requested to represented Auburn or Pacific Northwest themes and a licensing fee is provided to selected artists. A call-to-artists was distributed with the details and will be posted on the call-to-artist tab of the website and included in upcoming e-newsletters.

III. Downtown Planning Initiatives
Urban Design Planner Lauren Flemister provided an overview and update on two current downtown Planning initiatives the Main Street Urban Design and the Façade Improvement Grant Program.

The Main Street Urban design efforts is a focused initiative to develop a plan for the improvement of Auburn's Main Street from E Street NE to C Street SW Consultants SvR/Mig Consulting has been working with the City for the past 12 months to develop design recommendations that were developed in concert with City staff and numerous open house/community outreach design events. The two concepts include physical changes to the streetscape, and incorporate concepts that focus on the history of Auburn and highlight these important concepts. It was noted, that through community and council review aspects of both of these plans were deemed important, and so the consultant is not working to merge the two concepts into one cohesive design. The first of the two concepts is "Rail Rooms" which alludes to Auburn's history and present as a rail town and incorporates rail ties into seating and sidewalk details as well as is more linear and relies on straight edges throughout. The second concept is "Rivers and Eddies" that focuses on the river that used to run throughout downtown and incorporates a more organic and natural flow and curvature of lines.

The Downtown Façade Improvement Grant is a City run funding program that seeks to preserve and enhance the charm of the Downtown commercial area through strategic physical improvements to the buildings. Buildings within the Business Improvement Area (BIA) are eligible to apply for funds to repair/upgrade/maintain the exterior façade of their building. Council has approved $200,000 to be awarded over the next two years and Lauren spoke about the variety of projects that have received funding in 2015, including, but not limited to Zola's Café Signage (402 East Main), the re-facing of 230 Auburn Way South, and the Auburn Masonic Temple (302 East Main).

IV SOCO Culture – Arts Commissioner Retreat

Commissioners Smart, Gollnick and Judd attended the February 24, 2016 Arts Commissioner retreat organized and hosted by SOCO Culture (South County Cultural Organizations). Arts Commissioners from throughout the South County Cities were in attendance to share information and learn about how the work that they do within their own communities compares and relates to others in the region. Karen Hanan, Executive Director of Arts Wa as well as many of the 4Culture Staff were in attendance to lead group discussions and answer specific questions. Topics included the upcoming Cultural Access Washington initiative, Economic Impact of the Arts and Arts Education. Commissioner Smart noted that Kent and 4Culture managed a grant program "Give me Culture" which allows for smaller grant opportunities throughout the year which serves the grassroots projects that come up outside the regular calendar and requested to discuss this for Auburn's granting program. Multiple handouts were distributed at the meeting and McKnight proposed to compile and re-distribute at the next meeting.

V Updates and Upcoming Events

Commissioner Jensen requested clarification from the February minutes on the status and completion date of several public art projects. Staff spoke to the status of the Maker Space temporary public art project that will be installed in the new community center, the Community center public artwork by Virginia Paquette, and the spoke to the recent Auburn Reporter news article on the Big Daddy signage. Commissioner Smart noted, that having a recording of the creation process of the public art piece that will be in the community center may be something to look into having created.

Commissioner McGee, Maloney Judd and Gollnick were in attendance at the State of the City address on Tuesday, February 23 at 5:30 p.m. at the Auburn Avenue Theater and reported.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:56 pm

Respectfully submitted, Maija McKnight