

City of Auburn Arts Commission Tuesday, February 6, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Present: Anne Baunach, Cary Davidson, Charlotte Gollnick, Amy Sie, Sirichanh Sisavatdy, Donna Smart, Greg Watson

Staff: Arts & Events Manager Julie Krueger; Arts Coordinator Allison Hyde; Arts Assistant Mary Ellen Bowers

Excused: Heather Longhurst, Nancy Colson, Kelley Kuhlman, Eydie Leighty; Not excused: Jan Jensen

I. Call to Order, Approval of Minutes and Introductions

- a) Chair Smart called the meeting to order at 4:35 pm.
- b) Chair Smart asked to change the order of the presentations; to start with informational item III. Mary Olson Farm Artist in Residence. Hyde briefed commissioners on a new collaboration between the Farm and the City to host an Artist Residency at Mary Olson Farm during June and July of 2018. Hyde noted the rich artistic history at the Farm (weaving and illustration) and described the Call to Artists. Hyde described the process by which the successful applicant or applicants will be selected. Commissioners expressed excitement at the idea and look forward to seeing the outcome of the Residency.
- c) Chair Smart briefly welcomed new Commissioners to the meeting, and asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the December 7, 2017 Arts Commission meeting. Commissioner Watson moved to approve the December 7, 2017 meeting minutes; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Gollnick. Chair Smart called the vote, and the motion passed unanimously.
- d) Chair Smart introduced newly appointed Arts Commissioners, Anne Baunach and Sirichanh Sisavatdy. Smart thanked the new Commissioners who were able to attend the meeting at very short notice. Smart added that newly appointed Commissioner, Eydie Leighty, was unable to attend due to a previous commitment. Staff and Commissioners then introduced themselves and welcomed the new Commissioners.

II. Auburn Poet Laureate Nominations

- a) Arts Coordinator Allison Hyde gave a brief recap of the Call for Nominations for the 2018-2020 Auburn Poet Laureate. Hyde reminded Commissioners that the previous Call, which closed in November, had an Auburn residency requirement. Upon recommendation by the Arts Commission, the City Council took action to broaden the residency requirement to include South King and North Pierce Counties. The wider scope of the call resulted in 3 additional nominations for Poet Laureate, for a total of 4 nominations.
- b) Commissioners discussed the nominations based on the criteria listed in the Call. Commissioners commented on the high quality of the nominations and, worked to narrow the field to their top two selections. After much discussion, Commissioners asked if they could to meet the two poets in person. Commissioner Watson moved to invite Avis Adams and Susan Landgraf to the next Arts Commission meeting on March 6, 2018. If the poets are unable to attend, they will be invited (but not required) to submit a video of a poetry reading. Commissioner Davidson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Arts Coordinator Hyde will contact Adams and Landgraf to extend the invitation.

III. Mary Olson Farm Artist in Residence

Arts Coordinator Hyde briefly recapped the information she shared at the beginning of the meeting. Hyde asked if members of the Arts Commission were interested in being on the jury for the Residency. Commissioners Watson, Gollnick and Smart expressed interest in being included on the jury.

IV. Auburn Avenue Theater

Arts and Events Manager Krueger gave a presentation on the Auburn Avenue Theater. Krueger noted that this report was presented at the Auburn City Council meeting during a Study Session in January. The report recapped the business aspects of the theater program over the last three years

and noted that the City's lease on the property expires on December 31, 2021. Krueger further noted that her department is currently working to program the September 2018 to August 2019 season. Due to need for planning 18 months out, this is an appropriate time to begin asking "What's Next" regarding the Auburn Avenue Theater.

V. Updates/Upcoming Events

- a. Arts Coordinator Hyde announced that the Arts Commission's recommendation of Peter Reiquam's proposal for the Iconic Public Sculpture at Les Gove Campus will be on the City Council Study Session agenda on February 12, 2018. Nancy Colson will be in attendance at this Study Session to present the Arts Commission recommendation as she was involved as a member of both the Iconic Art Sub-Committee and Arts Commission. For the new members of the Arts Commission, Hyde reviewed the process by which the proposal was selected by the Arts Commission as their recommendation; this recommendation was then forwarded to the Council for consideration. The Council will make a recommendation and the item is currently scheduled to be considered at the City Council meeting on Tuesday, February 20, 2018.
- b. Hyde announced that the Call for Art Instructors is open for this year's ArtRageous events and asked commissioners to publicize the Call and encourage candidates to apply.
- c. Hyde also announced that she is working on the Benchmarks and the Pianos on Parade programs. The Auburn YMCA may be interested in artistically treating a bench or piano for this year's programs. Commissioner Smart suggested contacting Merrill Gardens regarding Pianos on Parade.
- d. Hyde informed the Arts Commission that a piece of sculpture on loan to the City through the Outdoor Sculpture Gallery program has been damaged. Jacob Novinger's sculpture "Head Above Water" has consequently been removed and is being stored. Hyde has filed a police report regarding the vandalism and is working with the City's insurance company, and the artist to determine next steps.
- e. Hyde announced that in the next few weeks, the City will begin pouring the plinths required for the permanent placement of two sculptures purchased by the City through previous year's Downtown Sculpture Gallery. Steve Tyree's "Hawk" will be placed at Game Farm Park, and David Varnau's "Joie de Vivre" will be placed outside the front entry at the Auburn Community & Events Center.
- f. Hyde announced that "Arts & Heritage Day" in Olympia will take place on February 7, 2018. Hyde plans to attend, as does Commissioner Sisavady.
- g. Arts and Events Manager Krueger gave an update on the Auburn International Farmers Market. Due to two large construction projects downtown near the Sound Transit Center and a decrease in customer count and vendor sales, the AIFM will temporarily move to Les Gove Park at the new park area along Auburn Say S. Commissioners expressed excitement about the new possibilities for the Market at a busy park location.
- h. Hyde invited commissioners to view the newest Art on Main installation by Bruce Taylor. Taylor's "Reflected Lament" is filled with light, movement and color. The strong and interesting lines and shapes of Taylor's artwork when seen during the day, give way to an explosion of reflected light and color at night.
- i. Commissioner Davidson announced the upcoming Auburn School District Art Show in coordination with the City's gallery program. This high-caliber art show will be hosted in the Auburn Community & Events Center Gallery. Hyde added that the installation will take place on February 28th, followed by a reception and awards ceremony on March 7, 2018. Commissioners Watson and staff Bowers expressed interest in serving on the jury for this event.
- j. Commissioner Gollnick shared news of AVCA's recent open house and current exhibit. The open house was well attended. Commissioners were excited to hear the AVCA gallery worked with an art teacher from the Muckleshoot Tribal School to include a student art exhibit in the current show. Gollnick commented on the high quality of the work produced by the students.

VI. Adjourn

There being no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner Davidson to adjourn, which was seconded by Commissioner Baunach. Chair Smart called the vote, and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Ellen Bowers

Approved the ____ day of _____, _____.

(Chair)

(Staff)