

Members

Phillip Hill, *LPC Liaison, Chair*
Margaret Payne, *Vice Chair*
Julie Anderson, *City Council Liaison*
Jake Fey, *City Council Liaison Alternate*
Jan Brazzell
Rachel Cardwell
Robin Echte
Sarah Idstrom
Jan Karroll
Traci Kelly
Bill La Vergne
Janet Matzke
Kristi Nebel
Jacqueline Peterson
Michael Reynolds
Mike Sweney
Kat Willard

Minutes

Tacoma Arts Commission

Community & Economic Development

Staff

Amy McBride, Tacoma Arts Administrator
Naomi Strom-Avila, Cultural Arts Specialist

Date: June 9, 2008
Location: City of Tacoma Municipal Building, Room 16
Time: 5:00 pm

Commission Members in Attendance:

Margaret Payne, Vice-Chair
Jan Brazzell
Rachel Cardwell
Robin Echte
Janice Karroll
Traci Kelly
Janet Matzke
Kristi Nebel
Jacqueline Peterson
Michael Reynolds
Mike Sweney
Kat Willard

Staff Present

Amy McBride, Tacoma Arts Administrator
Naomi Strom-Avila, Cultural Arts Specialist

Guests Present:

Donald Lacky

City Council Members Absent:

Julie Anderson
Jake Fey

Commission Members Excused Absence:

Phillip Hill, Chair
Bill La Vergne
Sarah Idstrom

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|--|----------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Call to Order | 5:10 pm | Vice Chair Payne |
| 2. Excusal of Absences | 5:10 pm | Vice Chair Payne |
| Chair Hill and Commissioners La Vergne and Idstrom were excused. | | |
| 3. Approval of Minutes | 5:10 pm | Vice Chair Payne |
| Motion: Jackie Peterson | | |
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Second: Kat Willard

Motion: Carried

4. Approval of Agenda 5:11 pm Vice Chair Payne

Motion: Jan Brazzell

Second: Rachel Cardwell

Motion: Carried

5. Chair’s Report: 5:11 pm Vice Chair Payne

Vice Chair Payne suggested that the Commission cancel the July meeting for summer break. Monthly meetings will resume August 11.

6. Staff Check-In 5:13 pm

Showcase Tacoma is taking place for the third time this August 8 & 9. It is produced and facilitated by Metro Parks and the City is a co-producer. The Commission will play a role in selecting artists for temporary installation and performance art for the event. The event will also have an art mart focused on indy crafts. The event will also have literary components including readings from the Tacoma and Washington Poet Laureates.

Angelou Economics has finished their economic impact study and will present their strategies to City Council. One of their suggestions is the creation of an International Financial Services District which would include a signature event which can be recognized internationally. There is a possibility that Showcase Tacoma could develop into this type of event and eventually bring in international artists. Angelou Economics has emphasized the importance of attracting the creative class to Tacoma. One idea is to create a cultural arts district on the south side of downtown.

Amy met with the Shaun Peterson, Greg Colfax and PCS Structural Engineering to determine a way to aesthetically install the Welcome Figure while ensuring structural integrity. The next step will be to solidify measurements and begin carving the piece. Installation of the piece is contracted for August.

Certificates of appreciation from the City were passed out to each commissioner in recognition of their service.

The Call to Artists for the Tacoma Public Artist Registry was passed out.

Commissioners were requested to sign-up to cover a variety of programs. The following Commissioners volunteered to evaluate these Arts Projects events:

Date	Organization	Event	Volunteer
5-Jul	Puget Sound Revels	The Dead Reckoning Revels at Tall Ships	Kristi Nebel
5-Jul	Shakespeare in the Parking Lot	The Tempest	Mike Sweney
6-Jul	Puget Sound Revels	The Dead Reckoning Revels at Tall Ships	Jackie Peterson
13-Jul	6th Avenue Business District	Art on the Ave	Jan Brazzell, Jackie Peterson
29-Jul	Victory Music	Playground Express Concert	Rachel Cardwell

7. Action Items**A. Water Forest****5:30 pm**

Commissioners reviewed photos of one of the structurally reinforced tubes. Commissioners determined that the visual impact of the support rods and cross bar is negligible. The next step will be to send Howard Ben Tre a letter to sign off on with his approval of the revised design. The lighting and water pumps are being tested.

During Tall Ships, the Water Forest site will house seating made of acrylic.

There was a motion:

“Move to proceed as recommended.”

Motion: Mike Sweney

Second: Traci Kelly

Motion: Carried

B. Ordinance**5:38 pm**

Commissioners received drafts of the proposed ordinance which includes changes made by the Commission.

As it is currently drafted, Section 1.28.A 040 B says “Terms of all Commissioners shall begin on January 1 and end on December 31.” Amy is looking into the feasibility of this set-up.

It was suggested to have language which defines that Commissioners can re-apply at the end of their term. City Council rules needs to be checked to ensure that this is not already addressed.

As it is currently drafted, 1.28.A 060 F says “All contracts must be within the budget approved by the City Council during the budget process and approved by the Administrator of the Commission and by the City Manager, and, where the monetary value of any such contract exceeds the City Manager’s authority, then by City Council resolution.” Amy is looking into whether there is already in place an overriding policy which addresses this issue. If there is, this wording can be removed.

As it is currently drafted, 1.28.A 060 W says “Review and make recommendations for artworks to be placed on City of Tacoma property” Currently there is no formal process in place for people who want to place artwork on City property. This recommendation will be made to the Government and Performance Committee. It was suggested to use the wording “Review and make recommendations on artworks for consideration of placement on City of Tacoma properties parcels.” Language about right-of-way may also be included in this section, based on feedback from the Government Performance Committee.

As it is currently drafted, 1.28.A 060 X says “Review and make recommendations for artwork included as part of bonus variance when requested/required.” This wording has been included to provide an approval process, run through the Commission, for bonus variances.

As it is currently drafted, 1.28.A 070 says “In the event that the Vice-Chair relinquishes his/her authority or quits before his/her term, a new general election will take place electing a new Vice-Chair for the completion of the term.”

There was a motion:

“I move that we accept the language as indicated here”

Motion: Jan Brazzell

Second: Kat Willard

Motion: Carried

As it is currently drafted, 1.28.A 070 says “Committee chairs may be appointed by the Chair or elected by the Commission as a whole.”

There was a motion:

“I move to accept the language as proposed”

Motion: Mike Sweney

Second: Janice Karroll

Motion: Carried

Commissioners received a draft of the public art component of the ordinance.

In 1.28.B 020 A1 it says “Eligible Capital Improvement Project means any project paid for wholly or in part by the City of Tacoma that is visible or accessible by the public...” The word “useable”, which was formerly approved by the Commission, was removed from “visible or accessible” to avoid any confusion about things like sewer systems which this program does not apply to.

As it is currently drafted, 1.28.B 020 A3 says “Capital Improvement Projects which are developed privately and leased back to the City of Tacoma are not exempt from the provisions of this Chapter.” It was suggested that it be changed to “Capital Improvement Projects which are developed privately and leased back to the City of Tacoma or developed in partnership with the City of Tacoma are not exempt from the provisions of this Chapter.”

There was a motion:

“Motion to accept language as corrected”

Motion: Traci Kelly

Second: Jackie Peterson

Motion: Carried

It was suggested to clarify language about how long funds are good for to rollover.

A definition of the public art plan will be included in the ordinance.

It was suggested that the language in 1.28B 020 A4 specify who is responsible for making decisions in relation to the language which states “Funds appropriated as part of any one project, but not deemed necessary or appropriate in total or in part for said project site...”

C. Goals

6:20 pm

The Commission’s goals/intentions were refined into one vision statement for the Commission: *“Expand the Commission's engagement with its constituencies -- City Council, Neighborhood Councils, funding organizations, community groups, public and private agencies, sponsored programs and individual artists -- to achieve greater awareness of the arts and culturally related needs of those constituencies and ways in which the Arts Commission can help meet those needs.”*

Specific measurable goals related to the vision statement will be discussed further by a task force comprised of Commissioners Brazzell, Reynolds, Cardwell, and Nebel. They will use the goals as outlined in the May minutes as a basis for discussion.

It was suggested to invite local arts organizations to come talk to the Commission about what they are doing.

There was a motion:

“I move that we create a task force under the chair of Jan, including Rachel, Michael and Kristi to craft specific goals and action items under the general statement that Michael presented and building on the goals as stated in the minutes of the May meeting.”

Motion: Margaret Payne

Second: Mike Sweney

Motion: Carried

D. Anchor Fund Reports and Coffees 6:40 pm

Vice Chair Payne reported about her meeting with Tacoma Opera. The current economy is affecting types of seats purchased for performances and season subscriptions. They received an NEA grant to train their board on fundraising and to match donations. The Commission is requested to help address “Tacoma’s inferiority complex about their arts programming” and to help reach possible donors.

It was suggested to pull out specific requests expressed in the Anchor Fund coffee reports and use the requests as possible guides for the Commission including the creation of goals.

Due to shortage of time it was suggested to postpone review of the remaining reports until the next meeting.

E. Art at Work and AMOCAT Nominations 6:56 pm

AMOCAT nominations will be voted on at the August meeting.

The Art at Work month opening party has been moved to Wednesday, October 29 at the Tacoma Art Museum.

Meeting adjourned at 7:04 pm