

**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

# Minutes

## Tacoma Arts Commission

### Community & Economic Development

**Staff**

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

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Date: September 8, 2008

Location: City of Tacoma Municipal Building, Room 16

Time: 5:00 pm

*Commission Members in Attendance:*

Phillip Hill, Chair  
Margaret Payne, Vice-Chair  
Jan Brazzell  
Rachel Cardwell  
Robin Echte  
Janice Karroll  
Traci Kelly  
Bill La Vergne  
Jacqueline Peterson  
Michael Reynolds  
Mike Sweney

*Staff Present*

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

*Guests Present:*

Donald Lacky  
Claudia Riedener  
Lynn Di Nino  
Judy Durkin  
Nathan George  
Wayne Beals  
Terry Munson  
Blain Johnson

*City Council Member Present:*

Julie Anderson

*City Council Member Absent:*

Jake Fey

*Commission Members Excused Absence:*

Sarah Idstrom  
Janet Matzke  
Kristi Nebel

**1. Call to Order**

**5:05 pm**

**Chair Hill**

**2. Excusal of Absences**

**5:05 pm**

**Vice Chair Payne**

Commissioners Nebel, Matzke, and Idstrom had excused absences.

**3. Approval of Agenda** **5:05 pm** **Vice Chair Payne**

Motion: Rachel Cardwell

Second: Bill La Vergne

Motion: Carried

**4. Approval of Minutes** **5:05 pm** **Vice Chair Payne**

Motion: Bill La Vergne

Second: Janice Karroll

Motion: Carried

**5. Chair's Report:** **5:06 pm** **Chair Hill**

Chair Hill proposed setting up coffees with City Council members and attending Neighborhood Council Meetings to discuss with them what the Arts Commission does. Commissioners were encouraged to attend Neighborhood Council meetings as they would like. Commissioners signed up to meet with Council Members as follows:

**Mike Lonergan**  
Phillip Hill

**Spiro Manthou**  
Jackie Peterson  
Janice Karroll

**Rick Talbert**  
Margaret Payne  
Phillip Hill

**Julie Anderson**  
Bill La Vergne  
Phillip Hill

**Jake Fey**  
Robin Echtle  
Jan Brazzell

**Connie Ladenburg**  
Margaret Payne  
Phillip Hill

**Marilyn Strickland**  
Janice Karroll  
Phillip Hill

**Lauren Walker**  
Traci Kelly  
Mike Sweney

**Mayor Bill Baarsma**  
Bill La Vergne  
Phillip Hill

Michael Reynolds and Rachel Cardwell volunteered to attend any meetings as needed.

**6. Staff Check-In** **5:14 pm**

There are several public art projects coming up:

Urban Waters is private development that the City is involved in. Chair Hill is the Arts Commission liaison for the project.

Park Plaza South is a public/private partnership. Commissioner Sweney is the Arts Commission liaison for the project. They are looking at having an artist design a green roof for the building.

A fifth Police Substation, the Stewart Heights facility, is being constructed. There will need to be a Commission liaison for that public art project.

Doug Kerr from Tacoma Little Theatre is having a board meeting on September 9. TLT would like to set up a meeting with the Arts Commission. Chair Hill and Commissioners Echtle and Cardwell have volunteered to meet with them.

A catalog of artwork for the Sister Cities program was passed around. The Sister Cities program has already utilized the catalog for purchase of pieces.

Tacoma Artist Initiative Program funding recipient, Betty Sapp Ragan, is ready for her mid-project review. Commissioners Sweney and Reynolds volunteered to meet with her.

## **7. Presentation**

### **A. Triangle Park at TMB North**

**5:20 pm**

Blain Johnson presented information on the current construction happening in the park just north of the Municipal Building. The construction is part of the Local Improvement District (LID) and is not eligible to participate in the percent for art program. The LID includes a new concrete wall, landscaping, lighting, seating, and a 6' x 28' tile wall mural of a historic photo. The mural tiles will be created by Windsor Fireform; the image will be glazed into the tiles and they can include an anti-graffiti coating. Funding for the mural came from several grants and donations of money, time and labor.

Blain explained that they did not go through the Tacoma Arts Commission for the selection of artwork or an artist for the mural because they felt it was just an installation of an image, not "a true artistic search" which would have included a call to artists.

The Commission encouraged Commission engagement in future potential public art projects.

### **B. Re-siting of "She Who Watches"**

**5:59 pm**

Chair Hill and Commissioners Peterson and Matzke met to review the resiting of She Who Watches to the northern point of the park just north of the Municipal Building.

She Who Watches was one piece of an entire collection which was created to define the theater district. The piece needed to be removed from its previous site in front of the Municipal Building on Market Street due to the LID construction.

There was a motion:

"I so move"

Motion: Margaret Payne

Second: Janice Karroll

Discussion: Commissioner Reynolds inquired about funding for lighting the artwork. There are no funds currently available for lighting but Blain suggested that the construction crew could potentially run conduit for future lighting to the site.

Motion: Carried

## **8. Action Items**

### **A. Water Forest**

**6:05 pm**

PCS Structural Solutions reported that the proposed solution for the Water Forest would work. The fix can withstand any seismic activity or human force that could be inflicted upon it; the piece is not susceptible to structural damage.

Howard Ben Tre's studio has not responded to requests for approval. If at any point Howard no longer wants his name associated with the piece, he has the right to come and remove his name from the piece and no longer associate himself with it. The City is responsible for keeping him informed and giving him the opportunity to weigh in about the changes that are happening to the piece, which Amy McBride has been doing.

There was a motion:

“I move that we go forward with it”

Motion: Jackie Peterson

Second: Rachel Cardwell

Motion: Carried

## **B. Ordinance**

**6:11 pm**

The Commission discussed what constitutes and how to define “artworks” in **1.28.A 070.R** which reads “Review and make recommendations for all artworks under consideration for placement on City of Tacoma property and upon request for placement upon city Rights of Way.”

Potential wording could include: ‘cultural significance’, ‘objects or displays of potential artistic significance’, or deleting the word ‘all’ from the current wording. The Commission suggested sending the Commission’s intentions to legal for wordsmithing. The intentions were summed up as “that if there is something that looks or smells like it might be artwork, that it needs to come to this body to be vetted or not even whether it is or isn’t but ‘is this an opportunity that is being missed that could be something more artistically done?’ or check off the box yeah/nay...the intention is to get it a little bit earlier rather than later. I don’t think it is the intention to get every single thing that happens in public space to have to come through here.”

In section **1.28.B 020.2**, “whose value is equal to the threshold necessary for inclusion in the Capital Facilities Program” was added for clarification to “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 for the construction, rehabilitation or remodeling of a structure, park, parking facility or any portion thereof within the City of Tacoma limits whose value is equal to the threshold necessary for inclusion in the Capital Facilities Program.”

In section **1.28.B 020.4**, the following wording was added: “‘In Lieu Fee’ is a payment made to the Municipal Art Fund instead of including artwork in the project. In lieu fees shall be equal to the value of 1% of construction costs. Projects may include artwork in a project less than the value of 1% for art and pay an in lieu fee equal to the balance. In lieu fees are identified in the TMC Title 13.”

In section **1.28.B.030**, the final sentence that reads “Want to confirm if this is still the best way or best way to say it.” should be deleted as it was just a comment.

It was suggested to define L.I.D. in section **1.28.B 040**.

There was a motion:

“I move to accept as written with the clarifications for number R under ‘Public Art’”

Motion: Margaret Payne

Second: Traci Kelly

Motion: Carried with ten Ayes and one Nay

### **C. Arts Projects and TAIP Guidelines**

**6:49 pm**

Commissioners reviewed funding guidelines for the Arts Projects and Tacoma Artists Initiative Program funding programs.

It was suggested to have consistency in wording and format between the two guidelines and to have examples of successful finished projects for applicants to look at.

There was a motion:

“I move that we make minor changes for readability as discussed but publish and issue these guidelines.”

Motion: Michael Reynolds

Second: Robin Echte

Motion: Carried

### **9. Art at Work**

**6:56 pm**

Examples of the seven Art at Work broadsides and the studio tour brochure were passed around.

Versions of the broadsides will go inside Pierce Transit busses and Art at Work advertising will go on the outside of busses.

A call to artists went out for visual and performing artists for the Art Slam and a call for spoken word performances for the Art Slam also went out. Commissioners were asked to help spread the word to the community.

There are 11 sessions lined up for the Arts Symposium. The sessions fall into the three categories of running a business, finding money, and marketing.

It was suggested that a restriction on the amount of text be considered for next year's broadsides.

Meeting adjourned at 7:03 pm