



**LAKWOOD ARTS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, AUGUST 4, 2014 – 4:30 PM TO 6:00 PM
Lakewood City Hall Conference Room 3A
6000 Main Street SW
Lakewood, WA 98499**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kat Flores called the meeting to order at 4:34 pm

ATTENDANCE

Arts Commission Members Present: Susan Coulter; Werner Dillenburger; Kurtiss Erickson; Kathy Flores; Retha Hayward; Phillip Raschke; Barbara Vest; Jean Witte

Arts Commission Members Excused: Marquita Hunt

Arts Commission Members Absent: Jeff Greenwell; Robert Lawrence; Sandra Calvillo

Staff Present: Dennis Higashiyama, recreation coordinator; Suzi Riley, administrative assistant

City Council Liaison: Marie Barth

APPROVAL OF MINUTES. Jean Witte asked that more details be provided on a topic discussed during the July 7, 2014, Arts Commission meeting than were covered in the meeting minutes. She was unsure of the Commission's role in developing public art for placement at Gateway points and she had understood this to be the task that was assigned to the Commission. It was explained that Mary Dodsworth, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director, was scheduled to provide an update on the Gateway project later in the meeting and would be able to answer questions, but it appeared that the Council had changed its direction for development of gateway points, and a more standardized approach was going to be used to provide consistency in design and identification, and that other public art locations would be investigated. It was suggested that this would be a good topic to bring to the Council during the joint AC and Council meeting in October. Mrs. Witte indicated she would like her inquiry included in the August meeting minutes to reflect the more detailed discussion at July's meeting,

It was also noted that the name of Phillip Raschke's guest at the July 7, 2014, meeting was misspelled in the minutes. The correct spelling is Soon Young.

With those change notations to be included in the August minutes, it was moved by Kurtiss Erickson and seconded by Barbara Vest that the minutes of the July 7, 2014, meeting be approved. The motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

SummerFEST 2014 – Recap:

- Sound from the main stage carried very loudly through the park this year down to the Arts Commission Stage and at times interfered with musical performances.
- The set up was late for the AC sound system due to its dual use for the Triathlon finish and the stage, This double use delayed the start of the performances by ½ hour
- The mural frame was not pre-assembled prior to the event due to staff commitments for the Triathlon, so this delayed the start of the children's 'art.'
- To lessen the impact of limited staffing and two major events occurring simultaneously, the stage performances should not start until 12:00 noon.
- Without tenting or shade options, performers had very small 'audiences' – the musical line-up was the best we've had for several years, but it was too hot for spectators to sit directly in the sun to enjoy the performances. Additional tenting would be helpful.
- Provide seating for the audience – older adults may want to enjoy our performers, but they are unable to sit on the ground – chairs are necessary.
- Could we change our presentation of the art project in the future? Would it be possible to have the 'artists' paint their pictures on large tablet butcher paper, so the art pieces can be individually pulled off and taken home to be displayed? Between acts, could we have 'artists' take their drawings to the stage to show them off?
- Could we use another color medium other than paint which has been either too thick or too watery and which takes longer to dry? Paint is messy and gets on kids' clothes.
- If paint is used, there needs to be an adequate supply of fresh clean-up water and paper towels or baby-wipes so hands and arms can be washed up.
- More volunteers from the Arts Commission are needed to work this event – many hands make light work, but a shortage of volunteers makes for long shifts
- The Arts Commission banner was not on display – no one even knew the performances were coordinated by the Arts Commission. The banner should be displayed wherever and whenever we are involved in an activity.

- Chalk art – maybe some of our Commission artists can draw chalk pictures in the chalk-art venue to get the ball rolling and to inspire other artists. 'Artists' need to be monitored to prevent inappropriate words or drawings in this venue
- Some signage to indicate what is going on at the chalk art site would be helpful.
- Susan Coulter did a great job in recruiting performers – it is a big job. Thanks!
- The quality of the acts we present on the stage is important, so before potential performers are contacted, make sure it is okay to contact a suggested performer – discuss this with staff before making any calls.
- The Arts Commission Stage is a community stage, so we need to continue to have the young dancers mixed in with more experienced musicians.
- Include a one-hour karaoke element as an 'act' – we used to have Lakewood Idol contests and a summer concert, so promote the karaoke element in publicity and get the word out to karaoke establishments and bring local talent to the forefront on our stage – start this recruitment early.
- Promote the karaoke opportunity in Lakewood's Asian community to draw this segment of our population to the event
- An audition session may need to be set up for unknown performers – karaoke performers included.
- None of the performers on the Arts Commission Stage are paid – they volunteer their time and share their talents.
- Popular groups – bigger bands – may be given two performing slots if we know they're good and will draw an audience.

ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL – RECAP

- Three movies were shown during the event on August 1-2-3 as opposed to five films in 2013. The total number of attendees was 346; just over 100 audience members a night and a slightly larger draw than last year.
- To prevent any technical glitches, a full second set-up for the film will be ready to go – if a machine overheats or a light goes out, there is a back-up immediately ready to use
- There was a discussion that the performances were great – and the films were great, but when all of the performances and the films and the intermission time were combined, it made for a very long evening. A suggestion was to choose shorter films or lessen some of the performance times periods.
- It was also suggested that a way to shorten the evening might be to eliminate the documentary film.
- A survey was provided to audience members during intermission asking for their ideas on directors they like or films they enjoy seeing.

- Mr. Raschke stated that the Arts Commission needs to get more involved in this project – there is too much time involved in its planning for one person.
- Mr. Raschke expressed appreciation to Mrs. Vest, Mrs. Flores, Mrs. Hunt and Ms. Witte for their volunteer time as ushers at the event.
- The Arts Commission thanked Phillip for his work on the Asian Film Festival, but made no commitment to more direct involvement.

COMMUNITY GARDEN – UPDATE

Mr. Higashiyama reported that the entry gate to the community garden should be in place by the end of October. Additional details were added to the design plan and an Eagle Scout candidate has taken on fabrication/construction of the gate as his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Dillenburger's shovel planter art piece should be installed at the same time.

The installation of the artwork and the gate will complete the two Arts Commission projects long planned for this site.

GATEWAY ENTRY POINTS – UPDATE

Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director Mary Dodsworth joined the meeting to provide clarification on how the City's gateway project was developed. The Arts Commission believed it had been tasked with a major assignment to develop this program and to include public art at the entry points, then a new Gateway Team was formed with representatives from throughout the community and from various boards and commissions, including a representative from the Arts Commission.

The Gateway Team studied Lakewood's entry points and signage and also those of communities throughout our area and country. Good points, bad points, styles, form, materials, lighting, font style and size – the review of entry points was extensive and from the likes and dislikes, four optional gateway designs were developed. A public meeting was held to allow more input and the design options were ranked by all present and two designs were favored by a significant margin.

The Park Board, Arts Commission, Gateway Team, citizens were all in agreement on the two favored designs, and the Council made the final decision and allowed supplementary money to be made available for this project. Additional funding is being solicited through grants, service clubs and donations. The selected site is the Bridgeport Way SW and Pacific Highway entrance into Lakewood at exit #125 off of I-5. This is a major thoroughfare in Lakewood and one of the busiest intersections. It is anticipated that the improved entry will become an identifying sign in Lakewood and will present a strong image of our growing community.

The Gateway Team came about at the direction of the City Council – their plans went in a different direction. We had received counsel from one council member regarding the interest in the Council in improving the City's gateways, and we set about to investigate the gateways and prepare an RFP for art work, but in full Council discussions, they preferred identifying signage over artwork and the project went in a different direction.

The Council is still interested in and supportive of public art and the funding stream developed through rental of city time at the Clover Park Technical College can still be available for public art, but the sites most likely won't be at gateway points. It is hard to 'experience' art from inside a car going 35 miles per hr – so other sites are preferable where the art can be experienced close-up and personally by individual viewers.

This task will be discussed further with the Council in the October meeting so their intent is specific for how we are to proceed. In the meantime, members asked Mr. Higashiyama to send them an identifying map of the city's public property and right-of-ways. It was suggested we approach Lakewood Gardens about an art piece at the Gravelly Lake/Veteran's Drive SW intersection – or at the Gravelly Lake/Washington Blvd SW intersection to see if they're interested in partnering.

LAKWOOD IS A CITY THAT READS – Planning

Mrs. Vest will coordinate the month long literacy campaign with the Lakewood Public Library. Plans are not firm yet, but will include a display case at the library – publicity in the City Connections newsletter – Sub-Times and PATCH. The design from last year will be used in publicity for 2014 – with the culminating event in the library coming in October, 2014, due to construction at the library in September. Details will be developed prior to the next meeting. Ms. Riley volunteered to help Mrs. Vest with the art decorations for the display case.

CITY HALL ART GALLERY – October, November and December 2014.

Retha Hayward coordinated the artist for the last quarter of the year. The display is currently up (early) and features Tis Huberth. Her work is displayed in the main corridor of city hall, in the City's Manager's office area, and in the Mayor's office.

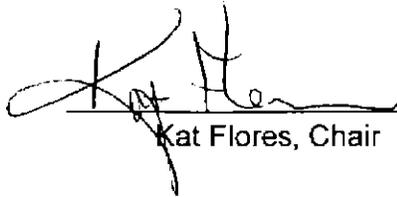
MEMBER RECRUITMENT: The Arts Commission continues to operate at less than its full capacity. Three positions are open for renewal at this time, Ms. Hayward's, Mr. Lawrence's and Mr. Dillenburger's. Additionally, three positions are open. Members were reminded to seek out artists – in photography, oils, sculpture, film, literary fields – any kind of art to encourage them to apply for membership and share their knowledge and talents.

MARTIN LUTHER KING EVENT – 2015. Essays were reviewed and scored and a winner and three honorable mention awards will be given to students who participated

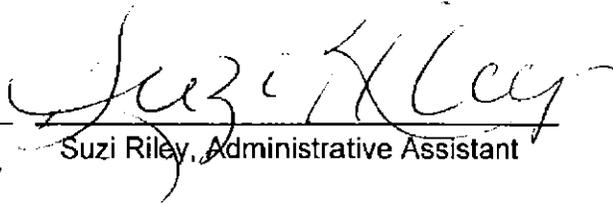
in the high school MLK competition. The topic will be revisited in December as the January, 2015 event gets closer.

NEXT MEETING: The next Arts Commission meeting is scheduled Sept 8, 2014.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 pm



Kat Flores, Chair



Suzi Riley, Administrative Assistant

No quorum was present at the September 1, 2014, Arts Commission meeting, so no business could be conducted. The minutes of the August 4, 2014, meeting were not approved until the meeting held October 6, 2014.