

**CITY OF SEQUIM
CITY ARTS ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES
VIRTUAL MEETING
SEQUIM, WA
October 16, 2020**

CALL TO ORDER

The City Arts Advisory Commission of the City of Sequim, Washington met virtually using teleconferencing software on Monday, October 19, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 3:12 p.m., with Chair Ross Brown presiding. The meeting was quorate.

ROLL CALL

City Arts Coordinator Aurora Lagattuta conducted roll call. Commissioners Susan Boudreau, Ross Brown, Maggie Hall, Craig Robison, Suzanne Horne and Mary Lofstrom were in attendance.

Council Liaison Mayor Armacost was not present.

APPROVAL OF FINAL AGENDA

MOTION: Commissioner Horne moved to approve the final agenda. Commissioner Boudreau seconded. VOTE: 5 in favor, 0 against. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were available for this meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Commission approved the agenda for the October 19, 2020 regular meeting of the City Arts Advisory Commission by unanimous consent.

MINUTES

The minutes of the October 19, 2020, regular meeting of the City Arts Advisory Commission were approved as presented.

MOTION: Commissioner Horne moved to approve the September minutes. Commissioner Boudreau seconded. VOTE: 5 in favor, 0 against. Motion carried.

REPORTS

1. Commission Chair Brown informed commissioners about the Sunshine Festival. At this moment there will be a Fun Run and nothing else is planned. It is the first Friday in March. Brown would like to do something in relationship to Centennial Place if anything is done at all.
2. Commission Vice Chair Horne stated she would share her thoughts later in the agenda.
3. Arts Coordinator Lagattuta referred commission to see attached [Monthly Report](#).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

9.2 Creative Placemaking Commission Ideas and Comments

9.2A Commission Vice Chair Horne reported on a need for a common theme that covers all art forms. Horne commented that trees and tree materials are embedded in all art materials from her maple violin to writing and drawing materials. Horne added that it could be interesting to think about talking trees. This theme is inspirational and broad enough to cover many aspects.

Commissioner Lofstrom noted that this theme connects to local tribes. Commission Vice Chair Horne agreed and added that it also connects to logging. Commission Chair Brown discussed Arbor Day. Commissioner Taylor spoke about wanting to include the tribes in a way that is respectful and inclusive of this community without cultural appropriation. Commission Vice Chair Horne suggested getting tribal storytellers to assist with this concept. Commissioner Lofstrom suggested connecting with Dale Faulstich, the carver of the totem poles in the area. Commission Chair Brown asks if he did the totem pole at the Sequim Civic Center. Arts Coordinator Lagattuta confirms that yes, Faulstich did create the totem pole at the Sequim Civic Center.

9.2B Commission Chair Brown discussed Centennial Place and the meeting he had with the city. He explained the key components: murals, gazebo and pathways. He mentioned the plaza in front of the Civic Center as being a sterile area and not an everyday gathering space. He suggested contemplating about what it is that makes a place inviting. Brown remarked that the pARTners group is a good starting point for this kind of work. He suggested the tree theme as a good starting point as well.

Commissioner Lofstrom asked for clarification about the pARTners group. Commission Chair Brown explained that pARTners is a group of arts organizations in Sequim that communicate and sometimes collaborate.

Arts Coordinator Lagattuta clarified that the city meeting Commission Chair Brown was referring to was a meeting with the Head of Parks and Public Works to discuss Centennial Place planning. These meetings will continue to occur monthly.

9.2C Commissioner Lofstrom mentioned the need for the space to be sheltered and suggested canopies. Commissioner Taylor commented that canopies sound pretty. Commissioner Lofstrom mentioned a book named, " A Pattern Language." Commission Vice Chair Taylor added that trees provide shelter. Commissioner Boudreau stated that we need warmth and a fire bring brings people together and calms people. Commission Chair Brown explained that the city wants power and water in the space. The space could also have performance opportunities. Brown commented that the there is a need to make the space both intimate and open. Commission Vice Chair Horne asked about the proposed timeline for the project. Arts Coordinator Lagattuta responds that initial ideas for Centennial Place and 2021 Art Programming Plans are due to council by December 2020. Centennial Place budget and plan is due to council by the end of April 2021.

9.2D Commission Chair Brown asked if the Chamber of Commerce is meeting. Arts Coordinator Lagattuta comments that she attended their first virtual meeting in July and was not sure how often they were meeting. Lagattuta will follow up with the Chamber of Commerce and their meeting schedule.

9.2E Commissioner Taylor commented that Centennial Place needs to be warm and welcoming as well as safe during a pandemic. Commission Chair Brown mentioned the possibilities of heaters. Commissioner Taylor mentioned the possibility of creating a space that could have flexibility and a shelter can be added as needed.

9.2F Arts Coordinator Lagattuta mentioned the People's Project as an example for getting community feedback. Commission Vice Chair Horne discussed the People's Project and asked about budget. Lagattuta responded that it is a \$50,000 minimum for this project to be on the plan. The project will meet the minimum at least.

9.2G Commissioner Boudreau mentioned that she does not want to be stifled with one theme. Boudreau also does not want to get bogged down by budget concerns at this moment. Commission Chair Brown mentioned this is an 'in house' project and the arts commission is in house.

9.2H Commissioner Taylor asked Commission Chair Brown about a sun dial being involved in the Centennial Place project and Brown confirmed he is still interested in this idea.

NEW BUSINESS

10.1 "*Youthful Expressions*" Exhibit

Art Coordinator Lagattuta reported that the numbers were much lower for this exhibit than the prior digital show. Lagattuta explained that the student and adult mixed combination might have detoured artists who prefer to be exhibited with their peers. The exhibits' timing and theme of playfulness might be also be challenging in the middle of the pandemic and election session. Commission Chair Brown commented that in general summer exhibits receive more submissions. Lagattuta added that this is a good first step

that can be built upon for future student shows. Commissioner and Head Juror Lofstrom commented that she is not giving up on the exhibit and the commission will keep working on it. Commission Chair Brown mentioned participating in a Hallmark competition: it was annual and student only. Brown suggested that a prize would be a good incentive for students to apply.

10.1B Action: Commissioner Lofstrom suggested to expand the student exhibit into an annual regional exhibit. The exhibit would include Sequim high school, Peninsula College, Port Angeles high school and other schools along the Peninsula. The commission could start promoting much sooner and talk to students in schools. Commissioner Taylor added that she is very happy to go and talk with schools.

Arts Coordinator Lagattuta asked when would the exhibit be? Commissioner Lofstrom suggests talking to students in late Autumn and accepting applications in November around Thanksgiving. Commissioner Horne suggests doing it around the Christmas tree time. Commissioner Boudreau inquired as to why the show could not be in the spring. Commission Chair Brown explained that in the past due to the proximity to graduation the spring was not successful. Commissioner Lofstrom commented that the commission would need to do more homework on who and how to present to students.

10.1C Arts Coordinator suggested displaying live signs in local city parks for the next exhibit. This could be uplifting as well as a practical way to display live art safely during the pandemic. The city aims to make 2021 the Year of Kindness. These signs could support that cause with positive words and thoughts. Commissioner Robinson commented that he thinks that art signs would be awesome.

10.1D Boudreau asked about writing. She mentioned including writers in the gazette and/or on the commission's blog with messages of positivity.

10.1E Action: Brown asks us to revisit each project at the next meeting. Commissioner Boudreau added that the commission needs a work plan and suggested that each commissioner consider their plans, themes and hours. Commission Chair Brown added that some of these ideas can be combined and work together.

10.2 Retreat

Commission Chair Brown commented that he does not see a need for an extra meeting. Commission Vice Chair Horne added that the commission knows what their goals are. Commission Chair Brown stated that the commission will decide the 2021 schedule during the next regularly scheduled meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objection from the Commission, Commission Chair Brown adjourned the meeting at 4:44 p.m