

BELLEVUE ARTS COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES

June 17, 2009
4:00 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Room 1E -111

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chairperson Finley, Commissioners Holder, Kiselev, Ptacek, Shepherd, Tremblay

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Mary Pat Byrne, Department of Planning and Community Development

OTHERS PRESENT: None

RECORDING SECRETARY: Mary Pat Byrne

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. by Chairperson Finley who presided. All Commissioners were present.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

A. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner Shepherd. Second was by Commissioner Kiselev and the motion carried unanimously.

B. Approval of Minutes – no minutes presented for approval

III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – None

IV. ACTION ITEMS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. 2009 – 2010 Work Plan Priorities

Mary Pat Byrne, Arts Specialist in the Planning and Community Development department, said the Commission's work plan discussion has focused on two key areas of interest, and once the Commission decides which area it wants to emphasize, the rest of the work plan can fall into place. The two areas are the Bellevue Sculpture Exhibition and the Bel-Red area.

Ms Byrne described a proposal for the sculpture exhibition that attempts to address key concerns expressed by the commission in earlier meetings. The location of the exhibition would be altered to fit the path for the Art Walk, and the media displayed could be expanded from sculpture to include other forms such as banners, temporary sidewalk treatments and other approaches. Where the path crosses private property the property owners could be invited to participate in one of many ways. In that way two of the public art program's 3 strategic goals could be addressed.

Regarding the Bel-Read area, Ms. Byrne noted that since it will take years for the city to realize its plans, there's an opportunity in the interim to encourage temporary art activity as a means of building interest in the area and seeding development of an arts identity. She

suggested that the Special Projects program could include an emphasis on projects occurring in Bel-Red.

Commissioner Tremblay said the Bel Red approach made sense since the Commission is in the “discovery phase” as to what’s possible in the area. She said there is a story to be told about the area.

Commissioner Ptacek said the Commission could use its influence to encourage groups to do something in the area, even without funding.

Chair Finley said that in reviewing allocations in Special Projects over the last three years, the majority of funds go to the same grantees with established programs, leaving only a small amount for other activities.

Commissioner Shepherd said the nature of a special project is that it is not an entitlement.

Commissioner Holder said it’s more of a commission problem because of the way it has chosen to hand funding recommendations.

Commissioner Shepherd said she didn’t want to cut off the opportunity to make a different choice.

Ms. Byrne, continuing her comments on the Bel Red area proposal said a Twitter account could be set up that encourages “tweets” on arts activity spotted in the area.

The Commissioners discussed several ideas for projects that could happen in the Bel Red area and possible opportunities in the Downtown.

There was general agreement among the commissioners that updating the ArtMap was very important, to call attention to and celebrate what’s already in the ground.

Commissioners Shepherd and Holder together made the point that if something is done in the Downtown it has to be done very well.

Commissioner Kiselev said there is still not enough going on in the Downtown for the Arts Program to redirect its resources elsewhere. The work in the Bel Red area should be at the seeding level.

Commissioner Ptacek said perhaps a third major thrust should be building partnerships in relation to all these activities, making it a formal, ongoing part of the work.

Commissioner Shepherd said the new focus for the Sculpture Exhibition addresses her earlier reservations. The pedestrian emphasis and expansion into new partnerships are worthwhile directions and she now supports the exhibition in its new form.

Motion that the Commission adopt a work plan based on three major components including the Sculpture Exhibition focus on the Art Walk, working in the Bel Red area, and working on building partnerships in all areas of the Commission’s work. Commissioner Tremblay seconded the motion.

Commissioner Holder pointed out that current program commitments are major, too, and said she did not support defining all components as major.

Commissioner Kiselev suggested amending the motion so that certain components could be described as seeding activities so that energy is concentrated in one main area.

Motion to amend a section of the main motion to read “...adopt a work plan based on three components including the Sculpture Exhibition focus on the Art Walk as the major focus; working in the Bel Red area as a seed activity...” was made by

Commissioner Holder. Commissioner Tremblay seconded the motion to amend and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairperson Finley asked the Commissioners to volunteer to serve one of two committees, one for the Sculpture Exhibition and the other for the Bel Red area project. Commissioners Shepherd, Holder and Kiselev volunteered for the Exhibition Committee and Chair Finley along with Commissioners Tremblay and Ptacek volunteered for the Bel Red Committee.

Commissioner Ptacek asked whether the Arts Program could partner with a Leadership Eastside (LE) Team on one of their projects. Chair Finley explained that the teams choose their own projects, but that LE is always looking for speakers and that could be a way to interest a team in a partnership. She said she would check with the program directors to see if a speaker's slot could be reserved for Commissioner Tremblay to present her Bel Red area talk.

Chair Finley asked Commissioner Tremblay to give the Commission her 15-minute presentation on the Bel Red area at the Commission's July regular meeting. Commissioner Tremblay agreed to make the presentation.

Responding to a commissioner suggestion, Chair Finley also asked that a representative of the Burien Arts Council be invited to talk with the Commission about their temporary outdoor performance space.

V. COMMISSION QUICK BUSINESS

Ms. Byrne asked whether Commissioners will be able to attend the July 7th regular meeting since it occurs during a popular vacation period. The Commissioners said they could attend.

VI. REPORTS

A. Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Tremblay reported she attended the CODAC event in Seattle and distributed brochures from the event. She also reported that she is working with a group of teens at Open Satellite on a project called "Bellevue by Design" which engages teens in designing a teen-friendly urban environment. This class will focus on the cultural corridor.

B. Staff Reports

Ms. Byrne reported that she is working with Open Satellite and the Right of Way staff to see if a way can be found to allow the Art cars made by Seth Kinmot, the current artist in residence, to be driven on the street. Chair Finley suggested that the cars might be displayed at an auto show scheduled at Crossroads.

VII. INFORMATION AND UPCOMING EVENTS

A. Written Correspondence – None

B. For Your Information – As Noted

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Finley adjourned the meeting at 9:50 a.m.