

BELLEVUE ARTS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES

March 2, 2010
4:00 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Room 1E -109

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

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Mary Pat Byrne, Gwen Rousseau, Laurie Rose, Department of Planning and Community Development

OTHERS PRESENT: None

RECORDING SECRETARY: Gerry Lindsay

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:13 p.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, amended to include a report from Commissioner Tremblay under Commissioners Reports, was made by Commissioner Tremblay. Second was by Commissioner Smith and the motion carried unanimously.

B. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the February 2, 2010, minutes as submitted was made by Commissioner Holder. Second was by Commissioner Smith and the motion carried unanimously.

III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – None

IV. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Smith said he attended the *Shadowlands* performance by The Attic Theater at Meydenbauer Center. He said it was very well done. He said he planned on going to Open Satellite for The Arcade on March 3.

Commissioner Tremblay said the Bellevue Youth Theater fundraiser was successful. The fundraising itself was successful and a speaker from the International Organization of Artists with Disabilities was very compelling.

Commissioner Holder said the Beth Levine show at the Bellevue Arts Museum was excellent. The review of the show in the *Seattle Times* was very good and offered good press for the museum as an organization.

Commissioner Holder said she and Arts Specialist Mary Pat Byrne presented a one-hour slide show and tour of City Hall to the Kappa Kappa Gamma alumni association on February 18. The participants were appreciative and seemed to really enjoy themselves.

Commissioner Holder said she and Ms. Byrne held the Bridle Trails neighborhood public art program presentation February 10. Artist Bruce Myers presented alternative concepts for art in that neighborhood to the selection panel and neighborhood residents. The artist-panel members were very helpful with the discussion of the alternatives, and the residents were enthusiastic about the options. The entire group came to agreement on an approach that places three different but related art works at three different sites.

Commissioner Holder said she has been helping staff in “behind the scenes” work processing entries for the upcoming sculpture exhibition, Bellwether 2010: Art Walk Bellevue.

Chair Finley said she attended the Eastside Heritage Dinner on February 3. The event raised about \$20,000. She said she also attended the Indulge Jewelry Show at the Bellevue Arts Museum; the event was a successful one for the museum.

Chair Finley said she also attended the Bellevue Youth Theater event. She said it was a wonderful event with Pat Cashman serving as master of ceremonies. A number of local dignitaries attended as well.

V. ACTION ITEMS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Bellevue’s Changing Demographics Report and Census Preview

City Demographer Gwen Rousseau provided the Commission with the most current demographic data for Bellevue and information on the upcoming Census. She said the American Community Survey (ACS) is replacing the census long form. For many years the long form was sent out randomly as a part of the national census that is conducted every ten years. The ACS is intended to provide more timely data. Information from the ACS has been collected annually since 2005. The ACS is intended to serve as a picture of a period of time. The survey is sent out randomly every single day, and the data collected covers one-year, three-year and five-year periods.

Ms. Rousseau shared with the Commission the estimates on a wide range of data for 2006-2008, which were released in December 2009. She pointed out that the data covers the period of time prior to the current recession. She clarified that the data is only made available for about 58 of the state’s largest cities for the three-year period. It will not be until there is a five-year estimate in hand that the data will be applicable to all of the cities in the state; at that time it will be possible to drill the data down to neighborhood levels.

Ms. Rousseau covered statistics on the age of Bellevue residents, ethnic and racial diversity, and percent of foreign-born residents and residents who speak a language besides English at home. She covered household size, education levels, occupations, commuting habits, income, and housing types and costs.

Ms. Rousseau said there is more information about the ACS data available on the city’s demographics website.

Ms. Rousseau took a moment to talk about the upcoming national census. She said the census counts everyone and is required by the US Constitution to occur every ten years. The primary purpose of the census is to reapportion seats in the US House of Representatives.

Census results are also the basis for distributing federal funds across the nation. The 2010 form will have only ten questions on it and will take only about ten minutes to complete. A letter will be sent out a couple of weeks ahead of the actual questionnaires, which are going to be mailed out on March 17.

B. Bellwether 2010 Update

Ms. Byrne said the deadline for entries was February 26. By end of business that day there were entries submitted by 84 different artists. The deadline was extended by a few days because of the inclement weather on the East Coast. The current push is to get all of the entries processed and the images burned to CDs as soon as possible so they can be distributed to the jurors. The jury session has been scheduled for March 15.

Ms. Byrne noted that the work to pull in sponsors has been moving ahead. An advertising firm, HL2, has signed on to create the graphic identity for the exhibition. That connection will help network with other organizations, including radio stations. The *Bellevue Reporter* is enthusiastic about serving as a print media sponsor. Commissioner Smith spoke with Kemper Development. That business is interested in being a site sponsor and declined contributing funds. Talks with them will continue.

Commissioner Smith said the Westin is in a similar position. He said they have expressed an interest but asked for more information about what was required. They are not able to contribute funds, but might be willing to provide the venue for a closing reception and rooms for out-of-town artists.

Answering a question asked by Commissioner Tremblay, Ms. Byrne said the hope had been that Kemper Development would be the title sponsor. Because they declined to accept that position, the door is open for talks with other businesses.

Ms. Byrne said the general strategy is to get the hospitality, media advertising and public relations groups on board first. The next step is to seek out corporate sponsors with a solid message about how much coverage the event will generate.

Ms. Byrne informed the Commissioners that she did not yet have a proposal for the teen project. She said Seth! Leary has been in and out of town lately. She expects to be in touch with him soon about the project.

The jury session will be open to the public and anyone is welcome to attend, though lunch will be provided only for the jurors and up to three others.

Commissioner Ptacek asked if the economic development staff can be enlisted to help identify possible sponsors. Ms. Byrne said, "Yes," and that she would welcome suggestions for sponsors from any source.

C. Budget One Update

Ms. Byrne reported that following the presentation on the Budget One process to the Commission by Department of Planning and Community Development Director Matt Terry, the Budget One team presented the process to the City Council for approval. City Council concluded that seven rather than five outcomes were needed; they added a Quality Neighborhoods outcome and an Economic Growth and Competitiveness outcome, two areas which had been subsumed under the Vibrant and Caring Community outcome, which was renamed to Vibrant, Innovative and Caring Community. The revision makes it possible for the Arts Program to apply to several of the outcomes teams.

Ms. Byrne said the results teams are scheduled to release the strategy maps for each outcome on April 2. These will function like the guidelines for writing proposals. She said the Commission should be prepared to have one or two extra meetings focused on the proposals after the strategy maps are released.

V. COMMISSION QUICK BUSINESS – None

VI. REPORTS

A. Commissioner Reports

1. *Cultural Compass* Discussion Opportunity

Commissioner Tremblay explained that Yoko Ott has brought in an artist around social practice, food and dialog. Instead of creating a painting, Michael Hebb, the artist, sets a table, provides a meal and facilitates a conversation around a set topic. The idea of artists as social practitioners is a trend happening around the world.

Commissioner Tremblay said the first dinner was at Open Satellite. Mr. Hebb set up a very large table using old doors and set it very beautifully. Five people were asked to come more prepared than other guests to talk about place and where the next dinner could be held based on the notion of exposing territories of Bellevue that not everyone might know about, places that may not even be venues for food or dinner.

Commissioner Tremblay said she suggested holding the next dinner in the Bel-Red corridor, possibly during warm weather so it could take on a picnic format on or near the Cadman site. She said it would be perfect to combine the social gathering event with an opportunity to talk about the *Cultural Compass*. She said it would cost the Commission about \$2000 to sponsor the event.

Commissioner Holder asked what the actual purpose of the dialogs is. Commissioner Tremblay said the idea has been a strategic gesture for Open Satellite. The guests are engaged in a creative dialog. The process involves networking but also offers Open Satellite an opportunity to lead the way in highlighting, encouraging and catalyzing cultural activities in various parts of the city.

Ms. Byrne said that it is time for the Commission to begin the work of updating the *Cultural Compass*. That action will need to be in the proposed work program. Participating in such an event fits well with some of the meetings the Commission will need to have as part of the process.

It was agreed that the idea should be given some additional consideration. Ms. Byrne said she would talk with Ms. Ott to discuss the possibilities.

B. Staff Reports

1. Project Status Report

Ms. Byrne said as soon as the Bellwether project is up and running, attention will given to the midblock crossing and *Topos* wayfinding kiosk projects.

Ms. Byrne said she is looking at scheduling the Newport concept meeting in late March or early April.

Chair Finley asked if there is anything the Commission could do to add some color or art to the nondescript sign greeting drivers on Lake Washington Boulevard as they come into Bellevue as part of the midblock crossing project. Ms. Byrne said that issue would fall under the gateway project.

Ms. Byrne said she recently gave a presentation to the Philanthropic Educational Organization. The meeting occurred at the Bradford House.

Ms. Byrne said Wintergrass, an indoor bluegrass festival was held recently at the Hyatt Regency Bellevue. She said between 7000 and 8000 people attended from 29 different states and six different countries, including all the provinces of Canada. The Hyatt reserved 733 rooms for the Wintergrass attendees (all but 80 of the hotels rooms); all of those rooms were filled, and all rooms were taken at the Westin. For the past fifteen years the event has been held in Tacoma, but the event needed to either find a new venue or go out of business. The Hyatt stepped up with a proposal that included a multiyear commitment.

The festival included a songwriting contest on the theme of coming to Bellevue. The winning song was called "It's a Hard Place to Suffer" and was played at a recent City Council meeting.

The festival partnered with the Bellevue Youth Symphony Orchestra and gave classes in playing bluegrass music to their student musicians. The event included a number of workshops for youth in addition to those classes.

VII. INFORMATION AND UPCOMING EVENTS

A. Written Correspondence – None

B. For Your Information – As Noted

1. Minutes from 12-1-09 regular meeting (approved as corrected 2-1-2010)
2. Upcoming Agenda Items
3. Calendar
4. CIP Public Art Program Commitments update

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Finley adjourned the meeting at 5:58 p.m.