

**City of Sammamish Arts Commission – Meeting Minutes**  
Monday, February 24, 2014  
Sammamish City Hall, 801 228<sup>th</sup> Ave SE, Sammamish, Washington

**Attendees**

**Commissioners:** Chair Anne Schaefer, Claradell Shedd, Margaret Rosenow, Priti Joshi, Ramu Iyer, Steve Wright, Kelli Ron, Barbara Jirsa

**Staff:** Joe Guinasso, Director of Financial & Technology Services; Colleen Rupke, Administrative Assistant

**Absent:** Lin Garretson

**Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m.**

**Note Approval of January 27, 2014 Minutes** - Commission Meeting Minutes approved via email.

\*Revision to Budget numbers for the 1/27/14 minutes per the following:

**Budget and Financial Report YTD 2014**

- \$25,800 2014 Budget
- \$6,500 4Culture Grant
- \$9,000 Carry forward

**Total Funds Available: \$41,300**

- \$2,991.31 Expenditures YTD

**YTD Funds Available: \$38,308.63**

**Update on Comp Plan**

Finance Director Guinasso further discussed the role that the Arts Commission will play in the Comprehensive Plan Update with the ultimate goal being to compliment the Comprehensive Plan document with artwork created by local artists. The City of Redmond's Plan was identified as a comparable example of how artwork can be integrated within the Comprehensive Plan document. The Comprehensive Plan development team has asked that two representatives from the Arts Commission serve as liaisons to the team. Commissioner Shedd previously volunteered during the January meeting. Commissioner Iyer volunteered for the second liaison position.

The Arts Commission role is to coordinate a "call to artists" identifying local artists to work with the design team (City staff and consultant). The artist's work will be integrated throughout the final document. Senior Planner, Emily Arteché will be meeting with the Commission in March or April to further discuss this role.

Commissioner Rosenow asked how the Arts Commission could get an art requirement placed on all development in the City. Finance Director Guinasso agreed to have this discussion with Director of Community Development Director Kamuron Gurol to find out what the appropriate venue would be for discussion and consideration of this matter.

**2014 Planning**

Commissioner Jirsa reported that a reception for the artists followed by a public conversation related to methods of printmaking – traditional or digital, authentic or reproduction, art or not - is planned for Thursday, April 10, 2014 at 7:00pm in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

Simple Measures Krishnaswami-Salman Duo concert will be held at the Sammamish Presbyterian Church on March 18, all Commissioners are encouraged to attend and greet guests.

Haiku Walk in the Woods, April 12 at Beaver Lake Lodge, all Commissioners are encouraged to attend and volunteer

Community Garden Gate – Commissioner Rosenow is working with Anne Precop on this project, no updates at this time

**Theatre Presentation**

Commissioner Wright passed out a handout on how he proposes to increase theatre and dance in this area. He proposes for this to fill the November event. He went over his outline of how he proposes to tap into the community input to resource this (see sheet #1) – holding open house to gauge public desire and needs. On sheet two of his handouts, he brainstormed Christmas shows of which he is aware locally. He wants to get Commission approval to proceed with this plan. The Commissioners agreed that the discussion with the Community needs to start sooner rather than later. There was no opposition to the idea by the Commission.

#### **4Culture Grant Update**

The City of Sammamish, under the auspices of the Arts Commission, has received a 4Culture Art and Heritage grant. Commissioner Barbara Jirsa, local artist Don Fels and historian Greg Watson applied for the grant to tell the story of Marie Louis, a well-known medicine woman and midwife from the Snoqualmie and Duwamish Tribes, who lived in the area known as “Monahan” now part of Sammamish. The idea being that community could be created by understanding the history and people who lived on this land long before our arrival. It is believed Marie was born in the Tolt Valley and she visited what is now known as Meadowbrook Farm (North Bend/Snoqualmie) – a gathering place for area tribes. Marie also has ties to The Landing Park here in Sammamish, where she would launch her canoe to travel throughout the region for her medicine and midwifery duties. The \$15,000 Grant will be used to create 2 story-telling art-walk pieces in several places including Sammamish to tell her life story. This will include coordination with the Tribes and Heritage groups and approximately 70 other groups throughout the region. September 27, 2014 will be the first of two public events and will be held at Meadowbrook. The second event will be held in the fall of 2015 along the Sammamish Trail and at the Landing Park where a viewer will be installed allowing one to see the lake with a superimposed image of Marie’s canoe. Dividing the events into two parts is due to trail construction near the Landing Park.

#### **2014 Marketing and Graphic Design**

Chair Schaefer is in contact with three different high school students, screening them to see if it will be feasible to use these high school students for creating the Commission’s posters. If you have any professional contacts that would be willing to help pro bono, please let Chair Schaefer know.

#### **Open discussion**

The Arts Commission display table in the City Hall lobby, for Art Exhibit and other Arts Commission informational brochures is a generic folding table. Commissioner Jirsa submitted a design to the City’s Project Manager for approval; however, the cost of \$2,000 is steep for an item to be purchased with public funds. The Arts Commission should address an alternate solution.

May is Art in Education month – the Commission is looking at Northwest Opera in Schools (NOIS). Commissioner Rosenow suggested any music from different cultures represented in the community. Commissioner Iyer suggested an orchestra leader at Inglewood Jr. High School (Rebecca Markov) who might be worth considering.

Finance Director Guinasso reported that the City Council had their Retreat this past weekend. One of the things they spoke about was the City’s Volunteer program. The City Council and City Manager are very appreciative of the volunteer help that the City utilizes and spoke very highly, of how well the Arts Commission does with such a small budget. Chair Schaefer reminded the Commissioners to be sure to fill out their volunteer hours.

Chair Schaefer reported that the Lego event was great, full, and well covered by the newspaper, but the paper did not mention that it was an Arts Commission event.

Commissioner Shedd reported on Sammamish Heritage (Freed House) – still working pulling up tacks and carpeting and taking down wallpaper. French doors are installed. Tearing up the inside. Two of the former rooms will be joined as a display room. Small steps are required for progress on this because of all the money and authorizations required. There are now certain hours for access to the Freed House because of the neighbors who object to continuous drop-ins.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM**

**Next regular SAC meeting – Monday, March 17, 2014 – 6:30 pm**