

Sammamish Arts Commission – Minutes – November 23, 2020
Sammamish City Hall, 801 228th Ave SE, Sammamish, Washington

Attendees:

Commissioners: Ashley Arrington, Jillian Born, Barbara Jirsa, Claradell Shedd, Margaret Rosenow, Sudeshna Dixit.
Staff: Anjali Myer, Parks, Recreation & Facilities Director; Chris Jordan, Recreation Manager; Annelise Diers, Rental & Systems Coordinator.

Absent: Sandra Pearce, Janet Hild, Sudeshna Dixit

Call to Order:

Ashley Arrington

Chair Arrington called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.

Approval of November Meeting Agenda

Motion: Vice-Chair Born moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Jirsa. Motion passed 6-0.

Approval of October Meeting Minutes:

All

Motion: Rosenow moved to approve the September meeting minutes. Seconded by Vice-Chair Born. Motion passed 5-0.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Budget and Financial Report

Chris Jordan

- 2020 Budget: **\$218,098**
- 2020 Expenditures to date: **\$80,429**
- 2020 Balance to date: **\$137,996**

Parks, Recreation & Facilities Director – Introduction

Staff

Anjali Myer introduced herself and thanked the Commission.

Vice-Chair Born would like to continue the Sand Sculpture program. For the Music in the Park program, Vice-Chair Born recommended having a sign-up sheet format for musicians to participate. Vice-Chair Born suggested musicians playing spontaneously rather than advertised, planned and monitored. The idea included reaching out to local high schoolers in the area. Chris Jordan mentioned the consideration of sound ordinance. Commissioner Shedd recommended reaching out to Recreation Supervisor, Lynne Handlos for information.

Vice-Chair Born reported the Thanksgiving craft kit was successful. She has planned the winter kit for the next craft; Chris Jordan recommended increasing the count and putting together 1000 kits for the winter project. Vice-Chair Born would like to do this project monthly.

Motion: Commissioner Shedd moved to budget \$300 for the winter craft kit project. Seconded by Commissioner Rosenow. Motion passed 5-0.

Chair Arrington presented an idea for sculptures in the park, with the theme of unexpected sculptures in nature.

The Commission discussed the idea of a virtual or in-person art studio tour.

Commissioner Rosenow presented the idea of a traveling art tour (driving, bicycling, etc.) where people can go from place to place to see art. At each location, there would be a commissioner or volunteer presenting about the art. This would be no cost to the Commission; participants can download/print their own map. Chair Arrington suggested having a podcast recorded for the audio portion as an alternative.

The Commission decided to change the Kids Art Contest to a gallery format rather than a contest format. The format they discussed includes allowing people to vote on art but the winner would be decided through a raffle rather than being rated in a contest.

Chair Arrington presented about outdoor art displays. Commissioner Rosenow added to that concept by showing photos of butterfly and eagle wings that can be painted as a mural and also used for photo opportunities. Commissioner Rosenow has been researching local artists that can paint these types of murals.

Chris Jordan asked the Commission about allocating funds for the Submittable program used for the Arts Showcase. Commissioner Jirsa recommended the Commission talk to Mireille prior to making a decision. Commissioner Jirsa mentioned leaning towards renewing the software to avoid losing the data. The software can be used towards other programs if it's not used for the Showcase.

Motion: Commissioner Jirsa motioned to renew the subscription for Submittable. Seconded by Commissioner Rosenow. Motion passed 5-0.

Commissioner Shedd talked about the utility box wraps and roundabouts.

Budget for items in workplan will be voted on in the January 2021 meeting.

Commissioner Rosenow promoted the Commission on a few different platforms. First, Commissioner Rosenow posted about the Commission on the Sammamish, Washington Facebook page and received reactions from others connecting on that page. A former employee from the Sammamish YMCA connected with Commissioner Rosenow to organize a walk with the Native Plant Society volunteers to organize a lowkey garden and art walk in the Lower Commons to show the garden, rooster gate and new sculpture. Commissioner Rosenow also presented to the Sammamish Seniors about the Commission and public art.

Any New Updates from Commissioners

All

The name for the sculpture on SE 4th Street has been confirmed; “Synergy Rising”.

According to Wikipedia, the definition of Synergy is an interaction or cooperation giving rise to a whole that is greater than the simple sum of its parts.

The process for naming the sculpture included receiving 33 submissions from the citizens of Sammamish; the Sammamish Arts Commission narrowed it down to 9 names to select from. Today, the original subcommittee of four, Barbara Jirsa, Claradell Shedd, Margaret Rosenow and including the artist, Lin Garretson, voted unanimously for the name of “Synergy Rising”. This was mainly because the artist started her paper on symbolism of the sculpture with a quote from Aristotle: *“The whole is greater than the sum of its parts.”* The name “Synergy Rising” has been published and Commissioner Rosenow mentioned the feedback received has been positive. Currently, signage is in being made with the name as well as the topics on each side of the sculpture.

Meeting adjourned 7:30 pm.

Next regular SAC meeting – January 25, 2021 – 6:30 pm.