

# Cultural Council Meeting Minutes

May 20, 2009

**Present:** Kathy Feek, GG Getz, Leah Kliger, Mia Coolidge (former member), Margit Moore, Amy Whittenburg, Cathy Heffron, Ellen Miller-Wolfe (staff), Julie Huffman (staff)

**Absent:** Tom Gant, Becca Singer, Jeff Parks, Bob Larson, Gwen Zierdt and Bhaj Townsend each present briefly

## **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES, MEMBER TERMS**

Meeting minutes from April regular and special meetings recommended to be approved as written since quorum not present.

## **REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS**

### Arts Organization Guest

Suzanne Kagen and Kevin Jordan present from Studio East. Studio East and Storybook Theatre are the same entity. They gave an overview of programs and expressed encouragement that there was as much excitement from younger people as there was at the community conversation we had on the strategic plan. Studio East is looking for a new home, hoping to remain in Kirkland and excited about the possibility of partnering with the City and local businesses.

### Chair's Comments

Leah reviewed Robert's Rules of Order and characteristics of an effective meeting. Meetings will be summarized at the end of each meeting so everyone is clear on what was decided.

### Budget

Staff reviewed the budget. Council has \$1375 left of the 4Culture money (\$500 gone to SIFF, \$1875 gone to KAST), and \$2411.75 left of the City's funds (\$125 spent on rental of Woman's Club for community conversation, \$463 spent on DVD brochures, and \$2000 earmarked for community collaboration).

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### Vision 20/20 Strategic Plan

Leah reported about meetings with the Heritage Society and the Kirkland Chorale Society to follow up on concerns that were brought up at the community conversation. When meeting with the Heritage Society it was suggested that the plan be a living document. Margit reported on her meeting with the Heritage Society. Margit will join the society and will try to reconnect with them. Kathy will connect Margit with former Cultural Council member Merrily Dicks, who was previously very involved with it. One of the issues the Chorale Society raised was concern that the restaurants don't stay open late enough for people to frequent after shows. Council discussed options for collaboration between businesses and arts groups. Ellen has asked the Chorale Society to come and sing at the opening night for Kirkland First event. That could help make some connections.

The Council was impressed with the number of people that attended the community meeting and the energy that was expressed.

Next steps for strategic plan were discussed. Does the council want to ask City Council to adopt the full plan or possibly look at executive summary or vision statement and goals instead? This will allow the Cultural Council more flexibility in changing the document according to the Council and the community's priorities. If we postpone going in front of City Council we may be able to then present more complete information about the foundation. Leah proposed we come up with a mission and vision statement and discuss this at a retreat in June or July. **Margit and Kathy will work on the vision statement.** The strategic plan in the current format is difficult to digest quickly. This is something that we could work on at the retreat. Two concerns were expressed: the steering committee will need to continue to be involved, and the city council will want to see a result from their investment in the plan. Council would like to schedule a retreat for June.

#### Art in Private Development

Question was raised regarding role of the Cultural Council in the Bank of America development. The settlement states that SRM (the developer) must consult with and gain concurrence from the Cultural Council regarding the art for the plaza. The Council's understanding is that it is to review the art piece and make a recommendation. The Council will not comment on the budget or request changes to the components of the proposed plaza outlined in the settlement agreement.

#### Senior Art Show

**Cathy will be the Cultural Council connection for the senior art show at Merrill Gardens put on by the Senior Council.**

#### Kirkland Uncorked

Council decided to table this item since we are lacking a quorum.

#### Juanita Banners

Council decided to table this as well.

Meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Julie Huffman