



CITY OF KIRKLAND
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MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager

From: Ellen Miller-Wolfe, Economic Development Manager
Philippa Marsh, Special Projects Coordinator

Date: October 27, 2016

Subject: Approving *The Spikes* Sculpture by Artist Merrily Dicks for the CKC

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that City Council accept by motion the recommendation of the Cultural Arts Commission to approve the sculpture titled *The Spikes*, created and donated by local resident and artist, Merrily Dicks, to be sited on the Cross Kirkland Corridor in the Norkirk Edge character zone on the Northwest side of the 85th Street underpass.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

When the City of Kirkland removed the rail along the CKC, artist Merrily Dicks, with help from many community members and CKC Coordinator, Kari Page, collected over 300 spikes. Merrily Dicks created a sculpture with these spikes to honor the history of the Corridor (Attachment A).

A preliminary concept was approved by the Cultural Arts Commission on July 15, 2016 and the Cultural Arts Commission took final action to recommended approval of the sculpture at its September 21, 2016 meeting (Attachment B).

The sculpture is a series of eight columns approximately 8', 7', and 6' high rising from a 4'x4' metal base. The sculpture is estimated to weigh 850 pounds (Attachment C).

Siting

The Northwest side of the 85th Street underpass was determined to be the most suitable location based upon input from the artist and the CKC Steering Committee. It also is a very accessible site, simplifying installation (Attachment D).

Cost

The Parks and Community Services Department has agreed to install the sculpture. The KCAC will contribute \$1000 of King County 4Culture grant funding toward installation. Thanks go to Artist Merrily Dicks and Lake Washington Institute of Technology for assisting the artist with welding and housing the piece.

The Spikes

Merrily Dicks

4/2/16

At an early meeting of the Cross Kirkland Corridor I asked the Landscape Architect if there was an Artist on his committee.

He said “no that comes later”.

I said, no it doesn’t”.

He dropped the conversation.

Art as well as history did not seem to be an issue on the Cross Kirkland Corridor at that time.

As an artist and historian I knew I must do something.

MY husband and I attended the ribbon cutting ceremony of the CKC and afterward walked the trail as others did. Noticing there were RR spikes lying beside the trail, we started picking them up. I wanted something to represent the history of the RR, since the ties and rails had been removed. A friend, Nora Carlson who was also walking the trail asked, “What are you doing”?

I told her and she handed me the spikes she was holding.

Nora, Lora Heim and later Jill Keeney were instrumental in collecting over 300 more spikes. Thanks to the city’s Kari Page for the buckets along the CKC with a sign on each one saying what I was doing , then collecting the buckets and calling me to pick them up.

I want to thank all the people of the community who put a spike or more into a bucket. It felt like this was a community project, what a good feeling.

The best place I knew to create a sculpture for the CKC was LWIT, Lake Washington Institute of Technology.

Because of my schedule, we are often away in early Spring, I signed up for a class in welding for garden art realizing I could only attend 6 of the 8 classes, I thought it would be a good overview for what I was going to be doing, and it was. When we returned I got busy cleaning the chunks of rust off the 400+ spikes, first with electrolysis, then trying acid, next was my Dremel and finally taking two spikes

and banging them together worked as well as all the other processes. Sometimes the simplest method works best....

It is much easier to create a design on a blank canvas than it is with a product, formed and resisting.

I wanted to form a design that reminded me of the sound the train makes as it passes by. As a kid I used to sneak up next to the tracks at my Grandmother's house in Houghton to wave at the Flagman in the caboose.

Back home, I signed up for a quarter of Welding at LWIT. After a few days in a small cubicle practicing a less than perfect weld, Arc welding is needed to weld the high carbon steel spikes, it is hot! I had a conversation with the Instructor, he suggested I use a student to weld my design. Students get Arc welding credit. That was my first design, my first assistant. I found the spikes did not respond to my first vision. Back to the drawing board.

Another quarter another design and assistant. Yancy McCoy was an excellent welder. We decided to make an example of my design to test it. We accomplished the sample and were very happy with the results.

Third quarter, Riley Schroeder my assistant now in his last quarter of Welding also enjoys working in the arts. I showed Riley the sample of the design and the layout of several columns. Riley was a fast worker and after a few days of working together he understood my concept. The form of each individual section of five spikes was important. He welded 350 spikes and then assembled, them into three eight foot columns, three seven foot columns and three 6 columns. In my layout I had used a bent spike and we agreed to use a few of those in the all over design. Riley showed his artistic ability in understanding the concept of my work and we were able to easily discuss how it might be improved. Riley influenced the final positioning of each column. He has also biked the CKC looking for the perfect location for the finished sculpture, he has some ideas. I am very thankful for his time.

Thanks LWIT!

The Kirkland Cultural Council voted to accept the sculpture.

Now the Sculpture is ready for the CKC if the City chooses to do so.



Cultural Arts Commission Special Meeting
September 21, 2016 4:00-6:00pm
Kirkland City Hall – Rose Hill Room

Present: Dawn (Chair), Ryan (co-chair), Nancy, Carol, Marianna, Christine, Lani, Linda, Michelle, Dana

Absent: Emily, Colleen, Gaerda

Guests: Anneke Davis, Helen Ahrens-Byington, Aaron McDonald

Meeting came to order at 4:04pm. Minutes from July 20, 2016 were approved (Marianna moved, Christine seconded, unanimous)

Fire Station 25 Presentation

Anneke Davis gave a presentation on the scope of work for the remodel of Fire Station 25. The project is set for final design to be completed by summer 2017 with construction starting late summer/early fall.

Preliminary art opportunities include the public space entry, building face “softening” and the location of the #25 Sign.

Fire stations do not have standard guidelines. Two new fire stations may be built and others will be remodeled. Steering committee did not want to implement standard guidelines but instead make sure the stations fit within their unique neighborhoods. Layout inside can be more standard.

A committee was formed: Nancy, Lani, Linda, and Marianna as an alternate.

124th Ave Pedestrian Bridge

Aaron McDonald, Project Manager for CKC projects introduced the 124th Ave Bridge Project. The Bridge is a non-motorized pedestrian bridge spanning 124th/124th that is 1300 ft long. The budget is 1.5 M for design and 11M for construction.

There is \$15K in 1% for Arts for Design. Design is now through March 2018.

The vision is a gateway structure that is integrated with the CKC and Totem Lake Park Master Plan. Public Works is currently in the process of getting a consultant under contract. Cowi, an international bridge design firm, has been hired as the consultant.

Due to the scope of the project, the project team and consultant have determined four Cultural Arts Commission touchpoints – Concept, Schematic Design (3-4 ideas), Completion of Phase 1, Pre-Final design. The project itself is a work of art and iconic, which suggests the involvement of the commission as a whole for the project. There will also be public outreach meetings that CAC members should attend. The Engineer is executing a separate contract with Guy Michaelson to make sure the spirit of CKC is considered.

The commission was excited about the project.

100th Ave Roadway Design: Marianna reported on what she has learned by participating in the preliminary design phase of the project. The project has been identified as a city gateway and the neighborhoods want to recognize the past but focus more on what the neighborhood is becoming. They want to explore how to humanize the corridor. Ellen suggested having the Commission submit a letter to include in the design document.

Parks: Parks is still not ready to meet.

Kalakala: The Committee is creating a shorter script with a fundraising message.

Park Lane: There will need to be a big push to get more artists to apply. The Commission agreed to have a replacement Howard/Mandville sculpture of the Gallery's choice, and Philly will get the committee back together when a potential artist submits sculptures for consideration.

Merrily Dicks Sculpture: The Commission approved the sculpture and preferred site locations as presented. (Dawn moved, Marianna seconded, unanimous)

Communication: Summerfest – Bags were great! Next year decorate paddle fans.

Artist in Residence: Philly recapped the first artist workshop and invited everyone to the workshop on September 24. The unveiling of the sculpture is on October 8 and the City Council will have a ribbon cutting with apple cider. It may also be a great place to reveal the art cart with a leaf activity.

Art Award: A nomination form will be included in Chamber's Request and will go out soon.

Grants to Organizations: TeenTix has started its Kirkland Promotion through the Kirkland Performance Center and Emily will meet with Teen Tix soon to see how to promote tickets through the schools.

The American Impressionist Society show opening weekend is Sept 29-Oct 1 with the exhibit continuing through October. Philly will resend out events schedule to Commission.

Summerfest: Went really well.

Art Walk: Working with KDA for reimbursement

Budget: The Commission reviewed the current actuals budget. The Commission approved that any extra savings in the budget will go toward a photography contract to capture public art that had yet to be photographed (Marianna moved, Lani Second, unanimous)

Meeting adjourned at 6:04pm

Minutes prepared by Philly Marsh



CKC Sculpture Site Preferences



About the Sculpture:

- Created by Kirkland Artist Merrily Dicks using the railroad spikes collected by the community.
- Dimensions: Approximately 4'x 4' base. 8' tall
- Metal base plate has holes to bolt into a concrete base
- Weight: 850 to 900 pounds

Preferred Site

Northwest side of 85th street underpass



Notes:

Access: Easily accessible off of 87th or through parking lot to the Northwest.

Ground: May need to be leveled slightly