



CITY OF KIRKLAND

City Manager's Office

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MEMORANDUM

To: City Council

From: Kirkland Cultural Council

Date: August 14, 2007

Subject: Acceptance of Gyro Sculpture by Bob Becker

Recommendation

The Cultural Council recommends that the City Council accept the "Wind Gyro #2" sculpture donated for placement at Fire Station 21.

Background

As part of the construction of the King County Fire Station at Boeing Field, King County commissioned "Wind Gyro #2" sculpture from Bob Becker. The sculpture spent many years at Boeing Field. However, due to recent changes in homeland security regulations at the airport, the piece was no longer accessible or visible to the public. In 2006, King County returned the sculpture to Mr. Becker. He would like to donate it to the city. Bob Becker is a citizen and business owner in Kirkland. He was very involved with the parks board years ago when Kirkland was negotiating to acquire Juanita Beach Park.

The Kirkland Cultural Council's guidelines for accepting donations of artwork require that the piece of art be evaluated on several criteria, including:

- quality,
- condition and durability of the artwork;
- whether it enhances the city's current collection or adds diversity;
- whether it engages the public;
- whether it is susceptible to vandalism or graffiti; and
- whether there is an appropriate site available for it.

The Cultural Council found that the artwork is of high quality, that the condition of the piece allowed us to easily refurbish it, that the piece was not particularly susceptible to vandalism or graffiti, and was durable. It adds diversity to the city's current collection of art as it is non-representational. We quickly determined that, because of its bright red color, a Fire Station would be the perfect place for it.

In collaboration with the Fire Department, several sites were considered. The Kirkland Cultural Council has determined that the best site for this piece is Fire Station 21, across from Juanita Bay Park. That corner, which faces Market Street, is a high impact area. The Fire Department is pleased to have it and doesn't have any safety or visibility concerns. The sculpture is fire-engine red and rotates in the wind, so will be a nice addition to the open space behind the Fire Station sign. The bright color will stand out nicely with the trees behind it. The Parks department is working with the artist to refurbish the piece and ensure proper installation. It currently needs

replacement ball bearings, as well as to be sandblasted and repainted. The Cultural Council has allocated funds, should they be needed to complete the refurbishment. The Cultural Council recommends that the City Council accept the donated sculpture for placement at Fire Station 21.

Attachments

Photo of proposed placement site

Photo of Gyro sculpture

