



Kirkland Cultural Arts Commission (KCAC) Meeting Minutes

February 19, 2020 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Kirkland City Hall – Council Chambers

Present: Carol Belval (Chair), Michelle Lustgarten, Ryan James, Tere Thompson, Tracy MacLean, Savannah Klein, Dana Nunnelly (Vice Chair), Dawn Laurant, Kim Radcliffe, Lani Brockman, Jim Lopez (staff), Chris Hendrickson (staff), Anneke Davis (staff)

Absent: Barbie Collins-Young

Welcome and call to order

Chairperson Belval called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m. Minutes from November 2019 were approved pending the correction of a typographical error on page one in which the word “commissioner” was used mistakenly instead of “commission.” Dawn motioned for the approval of the minutes, and Lani seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Carol announced that February 19 would be her final KCAC meeting. She has resigned from both the commission and her position as Chair.

Presentation on the 1 percent public art projects slated for Juanita Beach Park and at Fire Station 24, given by Anneke Davis

Juanita Beach Park

Anneke presented on the Juanita Beach Bathhouse replacement project, which has a 1 percent for art component. The project is currently underway. The contract for construction was finalized with Synergy Construction in January, and demolition began in February. The project is expected to be complete in September. The public art selection committee was a combination of City staff and KCAC members, including Dana Nunnelly, Carol Belval, Uzma Butte, Rosalie Wessels and Mary Gardocki.

The selected artist is Urban Rock and the concept is called “Three Limbs.” Three Limbs is a two-part project that includes seating elements to represent the area’s timber rich landscape, and metal discs which feature cutouts fashioned with historic scenes from Juanita Beach’s early origins. There are a total of three timber benches, each of which holds an image relevant to the lumber industry, and three interactive metal discs, which hold historic images of the beach’s views. The discs will possibly be installed on posts with a swivel joint on the top so that they’re mobile.

The size of the discs has not been finalized, but both 18-inch and 24-inch have been contemplated. The artist reported that it will take approximately two months to fabricate the six total art pieces, with installation estimated to take about a month (for mobilization, placement and installation). The project is designed to be interactive, so people can sit on the benches and kids can climb on them.

KCAC members expressed concern about the sharpness of the design edges in the metal disc cutouts, considering the intricacy of the images, and wondered if something could be done to: protect them from wear and ensure that they aren’t sharp enough to cut park goers who stop to enjoy them. General discussion ensued about different safety options, which were mostly discarded after brief

contemplation (the addition of plexiglass to protect people from sharp edges, etc.) It was decided that they would “give the problem back to the artist,” who will surely have a definitive opinion on the strength and potential sharpness of the metal. The artist plans to create cardboard models of what the discs will look like when complete and will present models in both sizes (18 and 24-inches) so that committee members can make a visual assessment and select the size of preference.

General discussion ensued about the color of the metal, as commissioners pondered powder coating and other methods of making the metal stand out. Again, it was suggested that they seek feedback from the artist on what type/color of metal will have the strongest visual impact. Commissioner Nunnally stated that she would be happy to be a part of that discussion.

It was suggested by the KCAC that some type of interpretive sign be developed for installation in a key location at the park to give context to the project and its elements and to identify the artist. Once all the data for the sign is completed, it will be transitioned to City staff on the graphic design team for further design and completion.

The final iteration of the Juanita Beach “Three Limbs” project will return to the KCAC for a final review before going to the City Council for final approval in April.

Fire Station 24

Fire Station 24 public art is by Michael Clapper Studios. The project kicks off this summer, with demolition of Rite Aid starting in May and the fire station groundbreaking anticipated for July. The station is expected to be complete in June of 2021. The art is called “The Sentinel,” and features an artistic interpretation of the Maltese Cross. The sculpture is free-standing and is illuminated at night with soft white lighting that turns red when there’s an emergency call. There are a few small details waiting to be finalized, including the positioning of some sort of emblem on the figure’s interior and the exact placement of the numbering.

Commissioner Ryan James sits on the Fire Station 24 committee. Commissioner Lani Brockman was added to the Station 24 committee, to replace former Commissioner Nancy Whitaker.

This project will return to the KCAC for a final review before going to the Kirkland City Council for final approval.

CIP 1 percent for Art program update for 2020

Jim Lopez presented briefly on CIP 1 percent projects for 2020. The only new project for 2020 is the N.E. 120th Street Sidewalk project, which is in Totem Lake near Lake Washington Institute of Technology. The total funding allotted for the project is \$8,000. Public art for sidewalk projects is limited to medallions, of which the City has an established design that is utilized throughout the City. The existing medallions run approximately \$1,500 each medallion.

KCAC consensus indicated that commissioners would like to explore the possibility of elevating the medallion concept so that it offers more artistic promise. A total project budget of \$8,000 gives them financial capacity to explore a redesign and/or other options to elevate the medallion.

Commissioner Brockman suggested involving the school district and hosting an art contest in which students would submit their ideas for the “medallion” art. They could select a winning concept from that pool of received ideas, which would greatly reduce the cost of an artist call.

Outcome: Direction was given to Jim Lopez to research what it would take to elevate the medallion concept and “expand the palette.”

Retirement of the Art Cart – Final Vote

Commissioner Tracy MacLean made a motion to retire the Art Cart, removing it from the KCAC’s purview. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lustgarten. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Laurant will return the Art Cart to City Hall. Once it’s housed at the City, City staff will explore the option of transitioning it to the Parks and Community Services Department for use by the Parks and Community Services department to enhance its summer programming.

Greenways – Update by Vice Chair Dana Nunnelly

Vice Chair Nunnelly presented on the Greenways project which is continuing to move forward. A site walk took place on Friday, February 21, to look at possible locations for placement of the art. In March the artist will host a community “art sparking” event to get ideas from members of the North and South Rose Hill communities and other stakeholders to brainstorm ideas about what the project might look like. Concept development is slated for April.

Uber Committee update

Commissioner Laurant gave an update on the Uber committee. The Uber committee has been combing through KCAC documents, including the bylaws, new commissioner information packets, guidelines, public art policy guidelines and other procedural documents, to eliminate redundancy, assure consistency and to make sure everything is up to date. As it moves forward it will begin to help KCAC leadership set meeting agendas. Commissioner Thompson expressed an interest in serving on the Uber committee, but the committee already has five members (see below note adding Commissioner Radcliffe) which is the maximum. It was stated that Commissioner Thompson can be added to the Uber committee once the next person drops off.

Consensus indicated that the KCAC would like the Uber committee to look at term limits and adjust the bylaws so that once a commissioner has served the maximum allowed time on the Commission (two four year terms), they are able to take a year off and then return.

Action: Commissioner Kim Radcliffe was added to the Uber committee.

Park Lane Sculpture Gallery – committee Tere Thompson and Ryan James

Commissioner James gave an update on behalf of the Park Lane Sculpture Gallery committee.

The Park Lane Sculpture Gallery committee met on December 10 to discuss a strategy for moving forward to populate the six Park Lane plinths. The committee will endeavor to ensure that fresh art is procured and ready for placement once Ed McCarthy removes his series of six sculptures, the Pareidolia People, in May of 2020. The committee planned to have a second meeting in January to build on its December discussion, but their efforts were thwarted by the snow.

Commissioner James completed a draft call to artists, which will be further reviewed by the Park Lane committee in advance of the March KCAC meeting. The hope is that the artist call will be ready for final approval by the KCAC in March.

Commissioner Thompson gave a brief overview of the committee's December discussion about the vision for Park Lane's outdoor sculpture gallery, which is an opportunity to present six different artists. Some of the ideas/concepts that have come up during brainstorming about the type of art the KCAC should pursue for Park Lane include visionary words like dynamic, colorful, unique, promotes tourism, modern, contemporary, international, a display of inclusiveness and something that embraces diversity. It should tell a story that is compelling for the times.

General discussion ensued over timeframe. KCAC agreed that they should take the time to "do it right," and not rush to install the art. Per 4Culture grant requirements the art needs to be installed prior to the end of the year and we must be able to demonstrate the public benefit. MOST IMPORTANTLY, any signage MUST include the 4Culture logo as an indicator of 4Culture's role in the project. Further discussion looked at the possibility of reaching out to community members and art advocates for guidance and assistance on an advisory level. Former Kirkland Mayor Joan McBride and Kirkland resident Kristin Larson were discussed as possible advisors on the project.

An addendum to the Park Lane discussion introduced by Commissioner Lustgarten reintroduced the idea of covering the plinths with some type of decorative cover in the interim, in which McCarthy's sculptures are removed and the new art has yet to be installed. This idea was first discussed in November 2019, when it looked like there might be remaining 4Culture funds that needed to be spent by the end of 2019. This ended up not being the case, as all the funding for 2019 was expended. Vice Chair Nunnally stated that they could dedicate a portion of the 2020 4Culture funding to plinth covers. Again, 4Culture's logo MUST be included on any project that uses 4Culture funding.

Informal action item: Commissioner Lustgarten tasked herself with investigating the cost of some type of protective, decorative cover for the plinths.

Informal action item: CMO will help with the call to artist.

Marketing Committee update

Commissioner Thompson gave a brief update on the marketing committee. Recent media included various written pieces and images completed by City communications staff to satisfy 4Culture grant criteria.

2019 4Culture grant project closeout reports

City staff and KCAC members reported on the 2019 4Culture projects, including the Peace Has Come mural at Michaels, Beauty and the Beast, Historic Photos in the Peter Kirk room, Mirror Universe and retroactive signage.

In an addendum to the discussion about the mural project (Peace Has Come) it was noted by KCAC members that Michaels has begun "parking" its shopping carts right up against the mural, which obstructs its view. This spurred additional discussion about the need to include some type of a stipulation into public art guidelines that creates a buffer around public art so that it can't be visually

obstructed by stored items, rubbish, dumpsters or anything else that prevents it from being fully enjoyed by the public.

This conversation dovetailed into discussion about whose responsibility it is to keep the art clean. The original Nathaniel Art mural, located on the 85th Street underpass, is covered in dirt at its base. A span of the mural measuring approximately 12-inches is covered in dirt, as per Commissioner Lustgarten. Also, brush has grown up around “Spikes” and needs to be trimmed in order to preserve its view.

The KCAC Marketing Committee was tasked with developing a piece of social media content providing more information about the process of the historic photos project, including photo selection and working with the historical society to select the photos. Commissioner Laurant is working with the Kirkland Heritage Society to organize language for an interpretive sign that will be hung in the Peter Kirk room to help provide context and to credit the KCAC, the KHS and 4Culture for the project.

ACTION: sign needed for historical photos – city staff to liaison with graphic design team once language is approved

KCAC recruitment for vacancies

General discussion ensued over whether the KCAC should seek to fill its three vacant seats. The three vacant seats are NOT council appointed seats, but positions appointed by the KCAC through its own recruitment and selection process. Informal consensus was that it would not seek to fill the vacancies as each of the positions has less than 12 months remaining in its term. Since the workload is relatively light for 2020, the KCAC consensus was that it would be best to wait until 2021 to fill its vacancies.

KCAC elections

Commissioner James opened discussion about the impending elections of KCAC chair and vice chair, which take place in March. He nominated Commissioner Tere Thompson for the position of chair. Vice Chair Dana Nunnelly announced her intention to run for the position of chair. Commissioner Radcliffe stated her interest in running for the Vice Chair position. It was unanimously agreed that leadership positions would be voted on at the next KCAC meeting.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

A line item needs to be added in the KCAC budget for ongoing signage, including interpretive signage and other signage to identify art, artists and provide other information.

Meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Chris Hendrickson

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 18