

Members

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 Dane Meyer
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 Scott Ramsey
 Catherine Stegeman
 Mike Sweney
 Wanda Thompson
 Jana Wennstrom

Summary Minutes

Tacoma Arts Commission

Community & Economic Development

These minutes accompany the recorded meeting of the Tacoma Arts Commission, which is available at www.cityoftacoma.org/tacagendaminutes.

Staff

Amy McBride, *Tacoma Arts Administrator*
 Naomi Strom-Avila, *Cultural Arts Specialist*

Date: August 12, 2013

Location: City of Tacoma Municipal Building North, Room 16

Time: 5:00 pm

Commission Members in Attendance:

Rachel Cardwell
 J.D. Elquist
 Matt Hudgins
 Don Lacky
 Zach Powers
 Scott Ramsey
 Mike Sweney
 Wanda Thompson
 Jana Wennstrom

Staff Present:

Amy McBride, Tacoma Arts Administrator
 Naomi Strom-Avila, Cultural Arts Specialist
 Martha Anderson, Assistant Director, CEDD

Guests:

Pamela Ryker
 Stephanie Stebich
 David Bonewitz

Commission Members Excused Absence:

Robin Echte, Chair
 Traci Kelly, Vice Chair
 Jan Brazzell
 Dane Meyer
 Catherine Stegeman

1. Call to Order **5:06 pm (00:09)** **Amy McBride**

2. Excusal of Absences **5:06 pm (00:15)** **Amy McBride**

Chair Echte, Vice Chair Kelly, and Commissioners Brazzell, Meyer, and Stegeman had an excused absence.

3. Approval of Agenda and Minutes **5:06 pm (00:46)** **Amy McBride**

There was a motion: "I approve the minutes."

Motion: Jana Wennstrom

Second: Mike Sweney

Motion: Carried

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Amy McBride recommended that the Tacoma Art Museum Plaza be changed from an action item to an information item on the agenda.

There was a motion: “I will move to approve the change in the agenda.”

Motion: Jana Wennstrom

Second: Scott Ramsey

Motion: Carried

There was a motion: “I move to approve the amended agenda.”

Motion: Mike Sweney

Second: Matt Hudgins

Motion: Carried

4. Chair’s Report

5:08 pm (02:22)

Amy McBride

Ms. McBride and Naomi Strom-Avila gave an overview of the Tacoma Arts Conference that Arts Leadership Lab is planning for November.

5. Staff Check-In

5:10 pm (04:51)

A second tower for the Water Forest public art piece was broken. The tower has been removed and the rest of the piece is still operational and safe. Staff is investigating ways to prevent this from happening again. Museum of Glass will adjust a security camera to cover the area.

Pamela Ryker, Artistic Director of Classical Tuesdays in Old Town, thanked the Commission for nine years of funding for their programming and gave an overview of this season’s programming.

Sundance Institute’s Film Forward series is coming to Tacoma September 3 – 7. Films will be screened around Tacoma and will be accompanied by moderated discussions.

Commissioners will sign up for fall Council Coffee meetings at the September meeting.

Materials and thank you letters from funded artists and organizations were shared with Commissioners.

6. Presentations

A. Tacoma Art Museum Plaza

5:27 pm (21:07)

Stephanie Stebich, Executive Director of the Tacoma Art Museum, and David Bonewitz, project manager for the Tacoma Art Museum expansion, presented about proposed plans for the Museum’s expansion and plaza.

Possible artwork includes a large sculpture by Jim Hodges in front of the Museum, sculptural pieces by Julie Speidel in front of the parking garage entrance, a sculpture by Marie Watt in front of the new wing, and a bronze version of Scott Fife’s Leroy by the café entrance.

The Museum has been working with Elizabeth Conner, project artist for the Pacific Avenue streetscape, to integrate the “green flash” concept into the crosswalk connecting the museum to Tollefson Plaza.



Groundbreaking for the work is scheduled for September 5th. Commissioners asked clarifying questions.

7. Discussion/Updates

A. Art at Work Month

6:02 pm (56:50)

Ms. Strom-Avila gave an overview of Art at Work Month plans. The Opening Party & AMOCAT Arts Awards will be held on October 28, 6 – 8:30 pm at the Foss Waterway Seaport. Mayor Strickland, Deputy Mayor Campbell, and Councilmember Walker are lined up to present the AMOCAT Arts Awards. The Commission is accepting nominations from the public for the 2013 AMOCAT Arts Awards through August 30th.

The Tacoma Studio Tour will be held on November 2 & 3, 11 am – 5 pm. Sixty artists are participating this year.

Media sponsorships have been secured with Tacoma Weekly, KPLU, Weekly Volcano, Premier Media Group, and Click! Cable TV. Commissioner Ramsey gave an overview of the Art at Work Month Marketing Committee's discussions to date including identifying target audiences and ways to create more synergy with our local arts organizations.

Sean Alexander is creating the poster for 2013.

Commissioners Elquist, Hudgins, Sweney, Lacky, Thompson, and Ramsey volunteered to help distribute Art at Work Month print materials.

B. Tacoma Totem Pole

6:23 pm (01:17:19)

Ms. McBride reported that the Landmarks Preservation Commission reviewed the recommendation from the Arts Commission that the pole be supported in place, a maintenance and preservation plan established, and signage that talks about the historic significance of the pole created. The City is working to design the support pole and PCS Structural Solutions will look at structural engineering.

C. Artspace Draft Report

6:25 pm (01:19:50)

Ms. McBride presented a draft of Artspace's report. Artspace felt they didn't see a space that fit their needs and wants to do an in-depth arts market survey in addition to the survey the Commission just conducted. The survey would cost about \$30,000. Artspace would like to work with local developers to help them realize possibilities for artist live/work space in Tacoma. Commissioners asked questions and discussed live/work code.

D. Tacoma Murals Project

6:34 pm (01:28:37)

Commissioners viewed photos of the completed Hillside mural which was designed by Rachael Dotson and painted by Liza Brown, Chelsea O'Sullivan and Janice L. Warren.

Commissioners viewed draft proposals of Natalie Oswald's mural for the Theater District at 616 St Helens Ave; Chelsea O'Sullivan's mural for the Tacoma Buddhist Temple at 1717 Fawcett Ave.; and Kate Cendejas' mural for the Lincoln District at 3639 S. G Street.

Additional murals are in the works for the Lighthouse Activity Center at 5016 A Street, Stadium District at 3639 S. G Street, and the 43rd Street Bridge.



8. Report Back

A. Landmarks Preservation Commission

6:44 pm (01:38:28)

There was nothing to report.

B. Advocacy Reports

6:44 pm (01:38:38)

There were no advocacy reports.

C. Arts Events Attended

6:44 pm (01:38:45)

Commissioners shared arts events they had attended or been involved with including Jeremy Gregory's art exhibit, Ragtime at Tacoma Musical Playhouse, FabLab, Spaceworks Tacoma's Artscapes selection panel, In the Spirit Festival at the Washington State History Museum on August 17th, and Feather & Oar's fashion experience at the Washington State History Museum on August 24th.

Meeting adjourned at 6:52 pm

