

PULLMAN ARTS COMMISSION
4 p.m. - December 14, 2006 - Neill Public Library
DRAFT

In attendance: Kathleen Bodley, Linda Hartford, Fritz Hughes, Andriette Pieron, Anna Maria Shannon, and Becky Thorgaard. **Excused:** Chris Bruce **Guest:** Patrick Siler

Guest Patrick Siler was introduced and thanked for attending. Patrick has submitted his application to become a member of the Pullman Arts Commission. Formal acceptance will be conducted at the Jan. 9, 2007 Pullman City Council Meeting.

Old Business:

Review and approval of the **minutes** from November. A few edits are needed but the content was approved – Fritz, and seconded.

The **history and purpose** of the PAC was reviewed – then and now, 1970's-80's – for Patrick. Presently PAC has no budget to work with, but we hope to make ourselves “indispensable”. Patrick asked about the **objectives** of PAC: Kathleen wants to see **more cooperation with the university**, and wants to do the same thing with the RiverWalk, to **tie the two areas** together more. The results of new additions from Prop One bond efforts will help to tie campus and town together more, but PAC is a better commission than Pullman Civic Trust (who was seeing a distinct opportunity and need) to get sculpture in place. PAC wants to get people interested in **art downtown**. Linda added that City Council wanted to expand: to include a **performing arts pavilion**. (At present, the city's Parks Commission is putting energy into the pavilion proposal.) Patrick asked if we were all involved with the visual arts. Kathleen mentioned Tracy Brelsford had been a member of PAC but resigned. Tracy is involved with civic theater. Anna-Maria offered to get all materials to Patrick as a new member, concerning PAC.

Kathleen outlined the diverse **experience** of **PAC members** in performing arts as well (music, theater). She had encouraged City Council to focus on the visual arts, as the performing arts are already organized. Keep the focus narrower. We agreed to incorporate performing arts representation by selecting future sculpture that would represent the performing arts.

Patrick asked about the **pavilion**, Fritz explained the shell proposed for Sunnyside Park. Patrick asked if this would be in competition to the Coliseum? Discussion followed, it would not compete, but rather fill a need to facilitate smaller performances and events in a more intimate setting. Kathleen has talked to Heidi Jarvis (manager of the WA-ID Symphony) and possibly invite her to a future PAC meeting. It was estimated that \$150,000 would be the bare-bones cost for a basic pavilion. **Heidi Jarvis and Rod Saylor** coordinated to get it under the Prop One bond. How much will they need? The city is now getting the paperwork together to make funds available from Prop One to conduct a study. In three years, Pullman will need to show near-completion of the study. Mike Owens' architecture class drew up various designs and constructed models that were presented to City Council in October 2006 to help generate interest.

Kathleen: Originally PCT wanted sculpture along RiverWalk, but decided a Pullman Arts Commission would be a better organization to determine sculpture choices and placement (and to conduct fund-raising efforts). Once again, **Walla Walla** was cited as a wonderful **example of a city with outdoor sculpture**. Kathleen: Perhaps City Hall would organize a **trip** to Walla Walla for the purpose of viewing sculpture (and wine tasting? asks Fritz). Anna-Maria will **schedule a meeting with City Council** for a slide presentation and discussion. Kathleen reviewed comments regarding the slide show she presented to PAC of **Bellevue's outdoor sculpture garden**. Becky and Kathleen could illustrate the artistic benefits that sculpture would provide by super-imposing sculpture into public spaces around the city of Pullman as part of the City Council presentation.

Patrick inquired about the repair needed for the Balasz sculpture. Discussion followed. Patrick offered to go see the sculpture and report back. (See attached **notes below** from his investigation.)

Anna-Maria: Any news regarding the grant request? Kathleen has not heard anything yet – but it may not be too late. A grant-writing workshop being offered in Spokane by the SBDC was mentioned as a possible source of funding agencies.

Andriette recommended we focus on what we want to do, establish our goals and reasons for writing a grant. Until then, we aren't really in a position to write a grant proposal. Kathleen reviewed our goals, set up in a previous PAC meeting.

Anna-Maria said that so few dollars come to Eastern WA – that usually when the Washington State Arts Commission (WSAC) receives a grant request from E. WA, we usually get it. Anna-Maria will get together a grant writing **committee** and reviewed the projects already on our goals list (installation of the fish frieze, repair and installation of Balasz sculpture, ie.). Fritz and Kathleen discussed ways to tap into **SBDC's** knowledge and resources. Fritz knows the director and offered to call him for more information.

Spring Banner Art was discussed for a proposed design for downtown. Discussion regarding a competition was discussed as serving multiple purposes: support and recognition of area artists. Linda Hartford suggested including high school students. A competition could provide media coverage for PAC. Andriette mentioned the need for specific guidelines. WSAC grant deadlines are closed for this round, but will go into another round in early spring. Kathleen provided the dimensions of the banners and numbers needed for each area of town. Becky reported on her findings with the company in Kent. Further communication and estimates are coming.

Artists Resource Guide: Anna Maria said Jo Savage had made good progress in creating a guide. Anna-Maria will call to see if there is a way to access those files. She mentioned that WA State is always asking for this **data**. Andriette said there are six finalists for the position for **Moscow's Art Director**, that they could provide some valuable additions. Becky mentioned the data bank as a result of **Art at the Dahmen Barn** in Uniontown and will contact Leslee Miller for a list of artists. Becky also mentioned the newly-formed **Arts Commission in Colfax** and will try to get names from them as well. **The Bank Left Gallery in Palouse** also has a list of regional artists.

Future PAC meetings are scheduled for the **2nd Thursday** of every month, 4:00 pm at the Library. January 11, 2007, February 8, March 8, April 12, May 10, June 14. There are no meetings in July or August

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Becky Thorgaard, Secretary
Pullman Arts Commission

NOTES from phone call received from Patrick Siler to Becky Thorgaard regarding condition and recommendations of Harold Balasz sculpture 12/19/06 – 1:pm

Patrick Siler viewed the Harold Balasz sculpture located in the old "Ag Shop", and found it in pretty good shape. The sculpture is made of sheet copper, with repairs needed at some seams. Bob, in the Shop manager, pointed out small holes which collect moisture, accumulating at the bottom, freezes, and makes for more problems and separation at the seams. Bob suggests drilling a few holes in the bottom of the sculpture to allow water to drain. (*Harold Balasz should consulted if the sculpture is invaded in any way...*)

Patrick spoke with Bill Motsenbocker, principal at Lincoln Middle School, who needs to get approval from Paul Sturm – Superintendent of Pullman Schools – to have ownership transferred to City of Pullman. Bill's hopes are that the sculpture could be placed in a location where more citizens can enjoy it.

Patrick suggests getting in touch with Paul Sturm soon and encourage him to have this issue placed on the next School Board Meeting agenda as an item for discussion, so we can start moving on repair and possible acquisition.

Becky Thorgaard,
Pullman Arts Commission
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