

**Hailey Arts Commission**  
**December 3, 2009**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**In Attendance:**

Commissioners: Mark Johnstone, Jessica Miller, Erica Niemi, Jim Spinelli, Joe Castle, Andrew Lewis

Guests: Linda Packer, Sheila Kelly

City Staff: Tracy Anderson

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 4:25 p.m.

**Minutes**

Spinelli made a motion to approve the November 5, 2009 meeting minutes. Castle seconded. Minutes were unanimously approved.

**Old Business**

**Training Workshop with Karen Bubb**

Johnstone asked for feedback on the public art training with Karen Bubb. Niemi stated the training was educational, gave a lot of great ideas, and helped focus the commission's efforts. Spinelli thought the training gave great ideas, but was concerned with time and resources to implement them. Miller received feedback from architects and artists that they would like to know all the public places that could use art and would like to see a list posted somewhere. They also mentioned the possibility of "trading" parking for art space (in-lieu art space to meet city project requirements).

Johnstone stated it was important to continue to look for opportunities to "marry" architects and artists, without negotiating.

Kelly stated she was very excited as a result of the Bubb presentation. She said it was tempting to start big, but that takes big money. Starting small might be the best way to start, such as trash cans, utility boxes, bus benches and shelters. Do smaller projects to raise awareness.

Johnstone mentioned projects related to transit that involve poetry posted inside buses and performance art at bus stops.

Lewis stated that fountains are the perfect spot for performance art, as they are natural gathering spots.

Miller mentioned that the Sheriff's Office had informally given Amanda Kent the old Sheriff's Office space for art and 4-H activities. Kent is intent on getting youth involved through the Arts Commission.

Packer got lots of ideas from the Bubb presentation, but isn't yet familiar with the commission's plans. Would like to see local artists work with businesses to forge partnerships for art placement. Agrees with Kelly the approach can be simple and small at first.

Castle brought forth the idea neighborhoods or business blocks sponsoring art in their geographic area.

Spinelli volunteered to work with Castle get an ice sculpture event off the ground, but thought it was too late to do it this year. Packer thought President's Day could be a big opportunity the commission might not want to miss. A snowman building contest was added to the ice sculpture event idea. Kelly said the Chamber is looking at a Winterfest event for February, and thought it might entail a couple of professional sculptors, plus the snowman component, and with the idea that businesses would pay for the sculptures. Tying the event to the Snowbox Derby was mentioned as a possibility. Johnstone

suggested a kick-off event this year to showcase the idea, and one more full year to roll out the full program. The group agreed business sponsorships are key to success of the event.

### **Month of Art**

Lewis stated that A Month of Art should take advantage of areas where people site; use July as a focus to create spaces where music could be played and art could be placed; artists and musicians together in spaces.

Packer suggested that Lewis coordinate with the Back Alley Parties.

Johnstone stated that artists need to be paid: musicians, sculptors and any public art.

Lewis also suggested temporary art; temporary shelters that move around the city.

### **Fox Building Mural**

Anderson gave a brief update on the funding status. All grants have been resolved, with a \$500 gift from the Idaho Power Foundation towards the mural. Mural funding stands at 12,000 in the bank, \$2,940 of in-kind contributions committed, and \$8,000 still to be raised.

### **Rodeo Grounds Fundraising**

Johnstone gave a brief update on the rodeo grounds fundraising efforts. The project has a \$6-7 million price tag; the city has committed up to \$3 million. The current schedule has construction commencing immediately following the 2010 rodeo. There is a group of fundraising volunteers, with a brochure that will be mailed to about 20,000 addresses in the next week, and a committee forming to pursue major donors. With the city's commitment of \$3 million, and assuming the project proceeds, the arts commission will have at least \$30,000 (1%) for public art at this site.

### **Hop Porter Trees**

There is a question of whether the stumps should be removed from the ground, made into art, and put back, as they are poplars and will keep growing. Another idea is to use the stumps as pedestals. The Tree Committee suggested perhaps having this activity as part of A Month of Art, where there would be booths with sculptor demonstrations. Another suggestion is to paint the stumps as totems of some type.

### **Youth Activities during a Month of Art**

Niemi has found a lot of support for the idea of a graffiti wall. Mayor Davis has not been as supportive as others. The Hailey Skate Park group was supportive at first, then changed their mind as they thought it would draw more negative attention; they thought it was a good idea, but preferred it be done in a different location.

Possible resources were mentioned: Tom Teitge, Council Circle, the YMCA and YAK! Packer suggested it might make a nice temporary project at the old Sheriff's Office site.

### **Adjourn**

Castle made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Spinelli seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.