

**CITY OF BURIEN, WASHINGTON**

**Art Commission  
MEETING MINUTES**

**Date:** May 22, 2012

**Time:** 6:30 p.m.

**Arts Commission Members Present:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shelley Brittingham	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shelli Park	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Virginia Wright
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Donna DiFiore	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael O'Neill	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Andrea Reay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chloe Bjordahl	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Robbie Howell	<input type="checkbox"/> Debbie Thoma	

**Staff Present:**

Gina Kallman, Cultural Arts Supervisor  
Debbie Zemke, Recreation Manager

**Guests:**

Bob Edgar, Burien City Council Member

**Minutes**

Meeting called to order. April minutes are approved.

**AREAS OF FOCUS REPORT**

**Arts Education** –Highline School District Art Walk—Staff worked with HSD art instructors and local businesses to create the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Student Art Walk on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. The event celebrated May as Art Education Month. Over 15 businesses along 152<sup>nd</sup> participated by hosting visual or performing artists for one day to two weeks. Approximately 200 people attended the event even though the evening was rainy. Shelli reported on how some of the AAA High School teachers also showed student work in the May White Center Art Walk.

**Public Art**— Burien Mural update— Debbie gave a brief overview of the public art/mural process. The commissioners can accept a concept, accept with concept with some provisions, or choose not to accept the concept if the work is deemed inappropriate for the site. If the proposal is accepted we will be scheduling a meeting in early June to have the artist present the final drawing via Skype or conference call. Michael asked a few questions about the process. Andrea presented the sketch of Augustina's work along with the artist's description:

*Please note that the final product will be very realistically painted.*

*The hands on the left and right sides of the mural which represent the water will be painted in black and white. Three rings or "mandalas" will form the center of the mural which are made of items found in the region- shells, ferns, flowers, tires, keys, etc. the background will be painted with old maps and/or the community pattern drawings. I have not yet determined if they will be black and white or color, it is something I need to determine once I have all the final imagery and put it in Photoshop. In addition, I may change the leaves on the left to salmon scales.*

*The mural represents our harmony with nature. It emphasizes important connections and the simplicity of life. The piece will be vibrant yet the theme is soothing and will cause people to stop for introspection.*

*I have not determined if there should be a mosaic component. The mural is very busy and I do not want to add something unless there is a perfect place for it and it makes sense with the composition. If I do add mosaic I would like to use shells in concentric rings to mimic the mural.*

Michael would have liked to have had an RFP process where three artists would have provided proposals. Virginia asked if there were any recommendations for the artist. Donna mentioned that the mural could unite the community and be a unique focal point in the region. Andrea moved to approve the concept. All approve except Michael who voted no on principle of process.

**Arts and Economic Development**—The Arts and Economic Development Committee (AEDC) met to discuss how to move this committee forward and Shelli presented a plan to the commission.

*- Invite members of the arts and business community (stakeholders) to participate in the monthly meetings of the Arts and Economic Development Committee. We see that as the most efficient way of establishing these important community relationships, and receiving direct input from the community.*

*- Actively work to keep the Arts Elements of the city's Comp Plan a visible goal in Burien, and in particular, the establishment of a Culture and Arts District in/around Burien Town Square. The BACAED Committee will meet with key city staff and city council members, and work with the Planning Commission to accomplish this. We will draw up a proposed plan, consulting with qualified professionals.*

*- Research and establish the goals of a 2013 Arts Summit.*

The AEDC is looking for a committee of seven to eight members in addition to the arts commissioner members. A formal ask will go to the Burien Economic Development Partnership, Discover Burien, Burien arts organizations, etc. Meetings will be every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 6:30pm, at the Burien Community Center. Virginia asked for a motion to add these points to the 2012 work plan and the motion was approved.

**Arts and Culture Grant Funding Priorities**—discussion moved to June meeting

## **STAFF REPORT**

**May 9 SOCO meeting**-- discussion moved to June meeting

## **ADDITIONAL ITEMS**

Michael voiced his concerns that too much commission work is being done in sub committees, and that the commission needs to work independently of city staff. He would like a committee formed to look at existing arts commission policy and procedure. He would like the Commission to work as a whole on public art and grants. Debbie provided some clarity on the history of the arts commission and how the city and commission functioned before the hiring of arts staff, as well as how the ordinances and by-laws were created. Before the hiring of an arts supervisor the city did commission some public art such as the clock, weather vane, and Town Square artwork. At that time Debbie developed the public art procedures which were viewed as guidelines. Debbie stated that it would be helpful to relook at policy and procedures at this time.

Michael would also like to explore the relationship with the Parks and Recreation department.

Chloe asked questions about procedure to clarify and discussed steps that may have been missed from the public art procedure with the mural project. Chloe would like the commission to trust the artist to create their work.

Robbie stated that she had not received some documentation in attachments, or had not had time to review e-mailed attachments. Robbie also stated her concerned that the city had sent out a press release about the mural artists before the commission finalized the project.

Andrea stated that she liked the committee system as she is able to work on what she has a passion for.

Shelley discussed how she has served on many different sub committees at different times and trusts that commissioners will do a good job in committees. She does not feel the entire commission needs to work on all projects as that will become cumbersome, but that there needs to be good communication between all commissioners. She does feel comfortable with the staff relationship with the commission.

Virginia would like to see the guidelines improved to mirror how the work is actually done. The subcommittees are made up of arts commissioners and should bring final decisions to full commission.

Donna discussed a few points. She has been on the arts commission since August, 2007 and has seen the commission change from grass roots involvement working on art walks and festivals to a larger city with a commission that can choose their involvement according to their passions. The level of involvement is chosen by the commissioner, with the main expectation being advisory. Donna commented on the concern involving the release of information about the mural and explained that this may have involved issues of transparency and community involvement. She thanked staff for their work and support. Donna would like to clarify the issue of “more autonomy” for the commission as she is fearful of more time demands on commissioners.

Shelli would like to find a graceful balance within the commission while still having a voice. Shelli feels there is a disconnect between the commission and the community.

Michael would like to see the commission more involved with creating the meeting agendas. He expressed concerns with the staff presentation at the April meeting. Debbie explained why that presentation was chosen. Virginia would like commissioners to send their agenda items to her each month.

Michael made a motion to form a committee to look at arts commission policy and procedures. Shelli seconds, all vote in favor. This will be discussed more at the June meeting.

The commission thanked Bob Edgar for attending.

The meeting was adjourned.