

**CITY OF WHEAT RIDGE
CULTURAL COMMISSION**

MINUTES

**Wednesday, October 13, 2021
6:00 p.m.**

(Via Zoom Virtual Meeting)

Item 1 – Call to Order

Chair Megan Deffner called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Item 2 – Introductions – Members and Guests

Members present: Celia Daly, Megan Deffner, Maru Garcia, Kathleen Martell, and Milly Nadler

Members absent: Nancy Dragani

Guests: Kendall Peterson, Public Arts Consultant
City of Wheat Ridge

Staff: Susan Anderson, Recreation & Facilities Manager
Wheat Ridge Parks & Recreation Center Department

Introductions

Chair Megan Deffner welcomed everyone to the meeting; brief introductions were given by all commissioners and guest.

Item 3 – Approval of Minutes

Chair Deffner made a motion to accept the minutes of September 8, 2021, as written. Commissioner Daly seconded the motion, all accepted and approved.

Item 4 – Unfinished Business

Public Art – Clear Creek Crossing Project (Deffner/Peterson)

Chair Deffner reported the following:

Chair Deffner stated that she is on the Art Selection Committee for the project and shared that five artists were interviewed by the committee. She turned it over to the guest speaker, Kendall Peterson, to provide a synopsis of the Clear Creek Crossing project.

Ms. Peterson reported that the project is under development and is located at the intersection of I-70 and Hwy 58 at Clear Creek Drive. Site features include the following: SCL Medical Campus; a luxury apartment community; restaurants; shopping; hotels; recreation; and public spaces. The exterior artwork budget is allocated for \$185,000. A seven-person Art Selection Committee met virtually on April 15th to discuss the site and determine criteria for public art. A request for qualifications was issued for artwork that is to be complimentary to the natural environment and connections to the site and the community. The Art Selection Committee representatives are as follows: Megan Deffner, Cultural Commission; Jerith Gronski, community representative; Ron Abo, community representative; Patti Barry Levy, Visual Artist; Amanda Weaver, City Council Representative; Ken Johnstone, City Development and Planning Director; and Christine McRight, Site Agency Representative. In addition, a presentation will be given to City Council and the Architectural Review Board.

The art selection process includes the following:

- Decision on criteria and project guidelines (meeting 4/15/21)
- Request for Qualifications (RFQ) sent via CAFÉ
- All Colorado artists submit qualifications (artist statement, slides of past work, resume, etc.)
- Selection Committee selects semi-finalists (meeting 6/11/21)
- Artists visit site (7/2/21); Christine McRight attends for site information
- Artists create proposals for the site
- Artists present proposals (meeting 10/6/21)
- Selection Committee recommends finalist for approval by Cultural Commission and City Council

The proposals from the artists include the following:

- Agrarian Calling, Tiimo Mang, Artist
- Intersecting Ripples, Patrick Marold, Artist
- Vessels of Harvest, Kevin Schaffer, Artist
- Hay Bales, Mary Williams, Artist
- Home to Headwaters, Chevo Studio & Andy Dufford, Artists

The selected artist voted for by unanimous consent was Tiimo Mang for the following reasons:

- Simple and elegant design
- Maintenance-friendly
- Symbolic and iconic
- Element of sound is terrific, makes it accessible for sight impaired

Not sure about the ground maze, so will confirm with the artist that he can deliver the scale of 52 feet high and silo shaped.

Christine McRight, Site Agency Representative shared that she'd like to take Patrick Marrold's design to the SCL Health team for consideration as the hospital will be commissioning artwork for its new campus outside of the city's public art process. Although not the final choice for the commissioned piece, the selection committee really liked his proposal.

Public Art Budget - Tower Road Art: \$190,000

- CAFÉ, meetings, etc. - \$1,500
- Honorariums for Artists (5) - \$3,750
- Contract with Artist: \$185,000

Recommendation:

Tiimo Mang was issued a contract for the design, construction, and installation of public art at Clear Creek Crossing.

Total Contract with Artist: \$185,000

The next projects will include Wadsworth Widening and the Green at 38th. Will provide the commission the names of who will be represented on those panels before the end of the year.

The commission thanked Ms. Peterson for her presentation.

2021/2022 Budget (Deffner)

Chair Deffner reported that they have more money to spend through the end of the year as the Asphalt Art Grant Project did not come through as expected. To date they have spent \$5,500, for a grand total of almost \$8,000 which includes money from the Foundation budget. For 2022 budget, they have \$10,000 to spend and have under \$8,000 that has been proposed for future projects. They are in a good position regarding next year's budget and would need suggestions on how to spend the remaining \$2,000.

Recreation Center Mural Project 2022 (Deffner)

Chair Deffner provided an overview of a proposal submitted by Susan Anderson to create a mural on two wall spaces at the Recreation Center located in the pool area and the children's pavilion. They would like to have a mural contest for an amateur and professional artists; would have to share the contest with the community sometime in December. The selection panel would review the selections. The winner would receive an annual pass to the Recreation Center. The commission would spend about \$2,900 to support this venture. Commissioner Daly expressed concerns as to what the artist would be expected to create for that amount of money and to have guidelines outlined for them. She will reach out to Wheat Ridge Creates for information and will provide an update at the next meeting. Commissioner Daly made a motion to approve the proposal and cost, Commissioner Garcia seconded, the motion passed, and was approved.

Business Appreciation Awards (Nadler)

Commissioner Nadler stated the awards plaque turned out really well. The winner, Stylus and Crate, was very appreciative of their award and this was one of three awards they were given this year. Commissioner Garcia presented the award to Stylus & Crate. A discussion followed about finding a way so that one business doesn't receive so many awards.

Localworks Partnership (Daly)

Commissioner Daly shared that she contacted Katie with Localworks, and Localworks will be working to redefine RidgeFest as it comes so quickly, and it is too close to the Carnation Festival event. Localworks suggested possibly moving it to June and having it more as an Art Festival. Katie was interested in working together with the Cultural Commission to brainstorm ideas for the Arts Festival, and to have marketing events in place so they know what each other is working on. The Holiday Tree Lighting was discussed and Localworks is under budget for the Reindeer and Dancing Christmas Tree event, so they would need support for that venture. Commissioner Daly will follow up with Katie and provide an update at next month's meeting. The Commission has the opportunity to financially support the Arts Festival next year.

Regenerate Wheat Ridge – Harvest Festival (Martell)

Commissioner Martell reported that the Harvest Festival will be this Saturday from 1-4 p.m. The Cultural Commission sponsorship supported a band for \$1,500 for the event. There is an opportunity for the Cultural Commission to have a table at the event to promote public awareness for what the Cultural Commission represents.

Commissioner Nadler stated they had a brochure was made up several years ago and stickers that could be made available, but not sure if they have enough time to participate. Also, if more brochures were needed, they could get more printed up as they have money in the budget for the expense. Susan stated if the commission could not have a table ready in time, she could have her Parks and Recreation staff create flyers or maybe the brochure just needs to be totally redesigned.

Commissioner Martell expressed that they as a commission should become more involved with agriculture in Wheat Ridge next year in 2022.

Wheat Ridge Creatives – Art on the Farm (Martell)

Commissioner Martell reported that Amanda Weaver would be happy to give the Cultural Commission a tour of the “Art on the Farm” sometime in the future, no exact date has been planned.

Wheat Ridge Reads Update (Garcia)

Commissioner Garcia provided the following report:

- Author, David Matthew Barnes, will do a presentation on January 20th at the Wheat Ridge Library from 9-10:30 a.m.
- The book, Mesmerized, will be ordered.
- In communication with Wheat Ridge High School to check on the date and with the library to arrange a date for the event.
- Wheat Ridge High School reported that the book seemed to be out of print. More information will be available at the next Cultural Commission meeting in November.

Chair Deffner stated that the Cultural Commission purchases the books with commission funds.

Item 5 – New Business

Commissioner Garcia asked if the commission could promote “Performing Arts” in Wheat Ridge as there is not a “Center for Performing Arts” here in the community for citizens to enjoy. Commissioner Nadler stated that events are promoted on their Facebook page if she knows about it. This topic will be added to the agenda for next month and will be discussed with Localworks. Chair Deffner expressed that their project “Arts Drop” will be here soon in December, so they need to get that event rolling.

Item 6 – Future Agenda Items

- Garden Tour 2022
- Cultural Commission Brochure
- Performing Arts Discussion

Item 7 – Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Martell: Thank you all for the email motion that I sent out for the different sponsorships. I am enjoying working on the commission, thank you for everything you all are doing.

Commissioner Garcia: Thank you everyone.

Commissioner Daly: Thanks everyone and another great meeting.

Commissioner Nadler: Thank you everybody for all the hard work you have been putting in.

Chair Deffner: Thank you everyone for your time, great meeting, have a great week, see you next month. Reminder, if you had an item on the agenda, please send in your summary to Terese.

Item 8 – Adjournment

Chair Deffner adjourned the meeting at 7:03 p.m.