MINUTES OF THE
Lone Tree Arts Commission Regular Meeting
City of Lone Tree Arts Center
10075 Commons Street
6:00 p.m. December 10, 2014

1. **Call to Order**
   Chairman Bob Meldrum called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Arts Commissioners in attendance were Chairman Bob Meldrum, Vice-Chairman Nora Pearson, Commissioners Debi Haning, Susan Stiff, Kerry Jamison and Janice Hubble. Also present was Jeannene Bragg, Operations Director, Lone Tree Arts Center. Absent was Commissioner Mary Hardin.

   Chair Meldrum then introduced new Commissioner Susan Stiff. Susan gave the commission some background about herself. She works for the Westin/Sheraton Hotels and is the chair of Saturday Night Alive. She has a passion for the arts and has worked with many of the organizations in the metro area including Central City Opera, Cherry Creek Arts Festival and Colorado Ballet.

   Chair Meldrum offered his commendation to outgoing Commissioner Buster for her many years of service and hard work on behalf of the Commission. She will be missed.

2. **Additions to the Agenda**
   There were no additions to the agenda.

3. **Approval of the October 15, 2014 Meeting Minutes**
   Commissioner Hubbell said she read the minutes and felt duly chastised. She said she was very sorry about missing the event at the Kirkland Museum and that a business matter came up at the last minute.

   There were no changes to the minutes. Commissioner Jamison made a motion to approve the minutes which Vice-Chair Pearson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

4. **City Council Update**
   Ms. Bragg reported that the City Council had received the Commissioners' feedback on the work plan and the Public Arts Projects.

   City Council had no issue with the items added to the work plan. Vice-Chair Pearson said that she had asked to have the collaboration with South Suburban added to the plan. Ms. Bragg said that it had been added, but noticed that it had been added to the priority section rather than 2015 projects. Chair Meldrum said he thought it fit in both sections and it should be left where it was. Commissioner Haning asked for a few more days to do a final review of the plan.

Ms. Bragg reported that Council had considered the feedback of the Arts Commission on the Public Art memo and had agreed to remove the Monument Signs from the list of public arts projects.

Ms. Bragg said that the Council direction remained the same regarding the other three projects: the Lincoln Pedestrian Bridge, an interior or exterior piece at LTAC and art for the Entertainment District.

Ms. Bragg told the group that if they wished to pursue interior artwork at the Lone Tree Arts Center, that Council was open to that for a budget in the neighborhood of $25,000. Chair Meldrum said that he wanted to move forward with an interior piece, that without art the center looked somewhat bare and that this piece could be an important statement for the center, even a brand.

Several commission members expressed that they didn't feel $25,000 was enough of a budget to purchase a significant and appropriate piece of art. There was discussion about if the money in the public art fund should be split evenly between the three pieces. There was also the question that if the sign plan was no longer included, could that portion of the budget go toward the interior piece.

Vice-Chair Pearson referred to the slide show Colleen Fanning had previously showed the Commission and said there were gorgeous pieces available for just under $100,000. Ms. Bragg said that in a discussion with Council a higher budget of $80,000-100,000 was discussed but the City Council was not comfortable with such a significantly higher amount.

In her meeting, Ms. Bragg discussed budget with public art consultant Colleen Fanning, who said it might be possible to get a piece for that budget from a lesser known local artist, but not something along the lines of what she had shown in the slide show which were by noted artists. Vice-Chair Pearson suggested that City Council should see Colleen's presentation.

Chair Meldrum expressed the importance of public art in branding a community and increasing quality of life. He felt a larger budget was needed to bring a significant piece of art to the LTAC that would make the community proud and be a destination for people to show to others. Commissioner Stiff remarked that she was involved in several projects in the City of Denver's 1% for the Art Fund and that in one of them, they were spending $5 million for art.

Vice-Chair Pearson gave some background on the public art process in Lone Tree for the benefit of our new Commission member. She said that the City Council had previously allocated $225,000 for a signature piece of public art at the Lone Tree Arts Center and that it had been delayed many times for various reasons including the need to hire a curator, the prioritization of working with a donated collection of art, and changes to the footprint of the Art Center land. Also, that over time the City Council had reduced the amount of money available, first to $185,000 and then in the recent memo, splitting it up among four (now three) different pieces. She said the Public Art Committee was very frustrated with this issue and that they hadn't purchased any new art for the city in many years.

Commissioner Hubble asked for clarification about the Pedestrian Bridge project and why would Council expect arts funds to pay for a construction project. Ms. Bragg replied that the art funds were not to pay for construction of the bridge and those funds were allocated in another budget by the City and several partners, but that the public arts funds would go to add artistic elements to the bridge, either by paying to embed an artist into the design team or to commission one to add artist element to the bridge after it was designed. There was much discussion about the project.

Commissioner Hubble asked how much this project would cost and Ms. Bragg replied that she wasn't sure, but was researching what a reasonable budget might be. There was speculation among the Commission that it might be a very high amount and take a significant portion of the public art budget.

Commissioner Haning expressed that she felt the architect would design the bridge appropriately and an artist wasn't needed as that was really the architect's job. Ms. Bragg replied that she had recently met with Colleen Fanning and been shown many compelling photos of projects where artists worked on bridges. She said the bridge would be very visible in the community and would be an opportunity for public art to be very prominent. Ms. Bragg was discussing the possibility of having Ms. Fanning consult with the City on this project, depending on her fees and availability.

Vice-Chair Pearson said that she had learned through her work with the South Suburban Public Art Committee that the Recreation District was donating $1 million to the project in order to help complete the trail connections. She recommended to that group that they restrict some portion of the $1 million to public art for the bridge. That will be discussed on the February, 2015 agenda of the group.

Commissioner Hubble said they needed to recommend a higher amount to the City Council for the interior piece of at least $75,000 and perhaps the Council would negotiate to $50,000. Ms. Bragg said that she felt the Council direction was firm on the budget and she didn't think the budget would be increased. Chair Meldrum said that they needed to try to get additional funds and made a motion that the Commission proceed immediately with an interior piece at LTAC not to exceed $75,000. Vice-Chair Pearson seconded this motion, which passed unanimously.

Chair Meldrum asked how this would be communicated to City Council and Ms. Bragg said they would receive the minutes. Chair Meldrum asked if he could attend the next study session to discuss this with Council. Vice-Chair Pearson said that she thought a full study session on public art was needed and that Colleen Fanning could present slides showing what was possible. Ms. Bragg said that the agenda was already closed for December 16, but that she could request a future study session. Chair Meldrum asked if the Commission could proceed with securing an interior piece at an amount not to exceed $75,000, based on their motion. Ms. Bragg said, no that only the City Council could approve the appropriation of the funds for the project.

Chair Meldrum said he wanted to communicate to City Council that he is very appreciative of their efforts to maintain and improve the quality of life in Lone Tree and that public art is an essential part of those efforts. Public art brings economic development and even reduces crime. The Arts Commission feels a signature piece at the Arts Center is very important and will help to make the building more distinctive.

5. **Public Arts Committee Update**
Commissioner Haning gave an update on the donated art work; the "Bee" piece has been accepted by Park Meadow and is currently being repainted. The hospital has accepted the Wind Harp which will be placed in their maternity plaza once it's complete. Staff is working on a brochure to go to the HOA's with the remaining pieces. This will go out in January, 2015.

Vice-Chair Pearson asked what happed to the piece that was supposed to go to South Suburban. Ms. Bragg replied that when the works were presented to City Council, they did not receive direction to move forward with that piece. The plan was to offer the pieces to the HOAs and then any remaining pieces could be reconsidered if not selected by the HOAs.

Commissioner Haning reminded the group that textile artist Jean Herman would be the next Commissioner's Choice art show and asked Commissioners to put the reception on their calendars. It will be held on Friday, January 30, 2015 from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Vice-Chair Pearson told the Commission that back in the spring artist Ralph Nagel had made a $5,000 contribution to the Arts Center for visual arts. She and Commissioner Debi Haning were involved in soliciting this contribution and needed to make sure he had been thanked and wanted to personally report to him on how the money was used. Ms. Bragg stated that she discussed this issue with Lisa Peterson, Executive Director of the LTAC. Ms. Peterson wrote a thank you letter to Mr. Nagel when the donation was received, sent a year-end report to him and also spoke with him directly about how the contribution should be used. Mr. Nagel replied that it should be used to support the visual arts at LTAC in any way. Vice-Chair Pearson asked if that meant the money had gone into the General Fund. Ms. Bragg said it was in the LTAC fund and was used for general support of visual arts programs which included items like our curator, receptions, hanging supplies, installation and the portion of salaries for LTAC staff who worked on visual arts programs. The funds were not dedicated to a specific piece of art or use.

Vice-Chair Pearson pointed out that most of the lights around the Endless Summer piece were not working. Ms. Bragg said she would notify Public Works.

Vice-Chair Pearson reported that South Suburban had issued an RFP for their Art on Loan Program on November 14, 2014 and that Nora had nominated Lone Tree's Prairie Sky Park as a place to receive the next piece of public art. She said the park made it to the final four sites under consideration.

6. **Exhibitions Committee Update**
There was not a formal report for this Committee as Commissioner Hardin was absent. Chair Meldrum suggested that this committee draft a set of guidelines concerning how the Commissioners' Choice would be selected in the future and bring it to the full group

for discussion and adoption. Vice-Chair Pearson said she felt strongly that Commissioners' Choice should only go to pieces that didn't receive any other prize so that more artists were recognized. There was some discussion about the confusion and differences of opinion regarding the selection process this year. The group agreed that it needed to be clarified for next time.

7. **Children's Programming Committee Update**
Ms. Bragg said she would like to convene this group in January, 2015 to discuss programming for the 2015/2016 season.

Commissioner Jamison asked about the in-school programming for this year. Ms. Bragg said that they were considering a Circus Art program, but were open to other options. Commissioner Stiff suggested using Central City Opera's apprentice program. It was agreed to discuss this further at the meeting in January.

Ms. Bragg also asked if the Commission would be open to discuss the artistic portion of KidsFest at the next meeting in February. There was agreement this was a good idea and Ms. Bragg will invite Lesley Colwell who handles City Events to the next full Commission meeting.

8. **Other Commissioner Reports**
Chair Meldrum explained that due to his change in job status, he would be stepping down as Chair and asked others to consider the position which would be voted upon at the February meeting. He briefly explained the Chair's role and asked for volunteers. Vice-Chair Pearson said that she would be happy to remain Vice-Chair, but was not interested in the Chair position.

Chair Meldrum and Ms. Bragg reminded the group that we would be reconstituting the committees at the February meeting and each commissioner should think about where they would like to serve. Commissioners need to serve on at least once committee, but may serve on as many as they like and can commit to. The Public Art Committee is required to have at least three members, so with Commissioner Buster's departure, at least one more was needed for this group. Each commissioner was asked to submit their choices to Ms. Bragg prior to the next meeting, so that she could compile the list.

9. **Staff Report**
Ms. Bragg passed around a contact sheet to make sure all information was correct and said she would send a new version to each member.

Regarding the curator position, Ms. Bragg told the group that with Sally's departure the plan was not to hire a curator on retainer, but to use various arts experts for each project and to hire others to help with the installation of the art work as needed. She had recently met with Colleen Fanning to discuss hiring her to help with some upcoming work, but this had not been finalized at this time. She would also talk to a few others who she was familiar with or who had been recommended for this type of work.

For the first time, LTAC passed the $1 million mark in ticket sales. Holiday shows were selling well and Commissioners were encouraged to get tickets if interested.

10. Meeting Dates for 2015 Review – 6:00 p.m.

a. February 11, 2015
b. April 8, 2015
c. June 10, 2015
d. August 12, 2015
e. October 14, 2015
f. December 9, 2015

Chair Meldrum asked if the group would like to add a January meeting, to complete the officer and committee selection. The group was split on this idea and it was decided to leave the schedule as listed above.

11. Adjournment

Chair Meldrum made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 which was seconded by Commissioner Hubble and passed unanimously.