

**Minutes of the
Lone Tree Arts Commission Regular Meeting
Lone Tree Arts Center
10075 Commons Street
6:00pm, October 14, 2015**

1. Call to Order

Chair Nora Pearson called the meeting to order at 6:08pm. Arts Commissioners in attendance were Vice Chair Debi Haning and Commissioners Mary Hardin, Janice Hubble and Marianne Pestana. Also present were Mayor Jim Gunning, Lisa Peterson, Executive Director, Lone Tree Arts Center (LTAC), Jeannene Bragg, Operations Director, Lone Tree Arts Center, and Kathy Denzer, Administrative Assistant, Lone Tree Arts Center. Commissioners Kerry Jamison and Susan Stiff were not in attendance.

2. Additions to the Agenda

Chair Pearson asked if there were any additions to the agenda. There were no additions suggested.

3. Approval of the August Meeting Minutes

There were no changes to the minutes. Commissioner Mary Hardin made a motion to approve the minutes, which Commissioner Pestana seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Commissioners' Choice Discussion and Approval

Chair Pearson announced the next Commissioners' Choice Show is scheduled for January 7th through February 29, 2016. Chair Pearson also stated that the committee has recommended two different artists be in the show. Cindy Welsh and Diane Cornish are both local artists from the Castle Rock area and the committee feels they complement one another's artwork. Chair Pearson stated artist Cindy Welsh has offered to paint a picture of the LTAC. Chair Pearson also stated she is interested in capturing the Arts Center at night during the holiday time period. Chair Pearson asked if the LTAC is planning any outdoor lighting this season since there will not be a tree lit outside the building. Ms. Peterson responded by saying there are plans to have the building outlined with lighting on the roof edging as well as snowflakes projected on the side of the building. Ms. Bragg offered projected images of both artists artwork for review. Chair Pearson stated that the Public Arts Committee is in favor of both of these artists pieces being displayed at Commissioners' Choice. Chair Pearson asked for a general consensus from the Commissioners to include both artists in the upcoming show. Each artist has made a commitment of at least fifteen pieces each to be on display. Commissioner

Pestana made a motion that the two artists mentioned be selected as the Arts Commission's recommended artists for the upcoming Commissioners' Choice show. Commissioner Hubble seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The recommendation will be passed along to the City Council at an upcoming meeting for their formal approval.

Chair Pearson made another suggestion that since both of these artists do produce either notecards or postcards that the LTAC consider selling these during the run of show. Ms. Peterson indicated that the LTAC would be interested as long as the cards are sold in packages and not individually. Chair Pearson agreed that she thought both artists already package their cards and this should not be a problem. Appropriate tax and commission would be applied.

5. Selection of Holiday Artwork

The committee reviewed several pictures that were selected from various art teachers from Lone Tree, Acres Green and Eagle Ridge Elementary Schools. The students were given a holiday topic in which to create their pictures. The committee selected five pieces which then will be presented to City Council for final selection. The final choice will be the holiday card printed and sent out as the City of Lone Tree's presented holiday card for the 2015 season.

6. Public Art Committee Update

- A. Foundation Matching Funds – Vice Chair Haning confirmed that the Lone Tree Cultural Arts Foundation intends to release the \$10,500 it has held since 2012 for purchase of public art at the Arts Center to match the City Council's two-to-one funding for an interior art piece for the LTAC. There will be a total of \$31,500.00 towards the purchase of an interior art piece. The process for selecting this piece will follow the approved public art acquisition guidelines adopted by the City. Ms. Bragg informed the Commissioners that the Foundation will be meeting in mid-November to formally approve the match. The committee agreed that the total of \$31,500.00 would be a sufficient amount of funds to purchase a desirable piece.
- B. Art Expo 2015 Reception – Commissioner Harding stated the turn-out at the reception was good. One piece of wall art was sold that day and three art bin pieces. Vice Chair Haning stated we have a total of sixty-two artists in this current show and the "Apples" piece was selected Best of Show. Commissioner Hardin is looking at way to further growth in attendance at these shows and openings, and suggested looking in to bringing in a non-profit organization to partner with. Vice Chair Haning stated that usually a non-profit gets involved when there are funding opportunities for them to benefit from. Commissioner Pestana suggested putting more responsibility on the participating artists for publicizing their involvement with the show, including having them post on their websites and Facebook pages. It was

- mentioned that usually the reception attendees are mostly friends of the artists. Commissioner Pestana stated there might be free listings in Denver available that could be utilized, and offered to create checklists for all participating artists with suggested items to promote this show. Chair Pearson is concerned that these shows are never listed in the Lone Tree Voice. Ms. Bragg reminded the commissioners that there have been several articles featuring art exhibits in the Lone Tree Voice. Commissioner Pestana suggested we get a solid contact person and send email updates to them to promote these shows. Ms. Bragg reminded the Commissioners that direct contact with the press is normally handled by City staff. Chair Pearson suggested sending invitations to the shows, but acknowledged that there were high costs to consider with this option. Ms. Bragg stated we do print postcards and give them to the artists to distribute.
- C. Donated Collection: Red Box Tree – Chair Pearson met with South Suburban and they agreed to pay for the installation and maintenance this piece. The Lone Tree Golf Club has a location near the tennis courts in mind. Ms. Bragg informed the committee that there are still some refurbishing issues and that a new base plate needs to be built. Additionally, the piece will require a building permit be issued prior to installation. South Suburban is anxious to move forward on this project. Chair Pearson announced that after researching online the unknown artist of the Red Box Tree is Tim Mitchell.

7. Mayor Jim Gunning Arts Commission Discussion

Mayor Gunning was in attendance to listen to and discuss questions that the committee might have. Chair Pearson asked what the status of the budget is with the city. Mayor Gunning stated it has been completed for the 2016 season, and asked staff to share the budget memo with the Commissioners (see attached).

Vice Chair Haning asked what the Mayor and Council felt the role of the Arts Commission was. Mayor Gunning stated the Arts Commission, by City resolution, is an arts and cultural advisory commission to the City Council.

Chair Pearson took this opportunity to thank the Mayor and Council members for matching the funds for the interior Arts Center piece. Mayor Gunning stated that the Council was especially pleased that the acquisition of the interior piece was going to be made possible through a partnership. He mentioned that moving forward, the Council would like to evaluate public art initiatives on a project by project basis, and cautioned the Commission that City funding for public art wouldn't necessarily be expected every year. He encouraged the Commissioners to think of other partnerships to make public art placement possible, including considering expanding the idea of the Art Encounters art on loan program to businesses in the City. He mentioned that if businesses were willing to display art on loan or even a purchased art piece on their property, the City

could consider participating financially by providing some funding to help install the piece.

Chair Pearson stated that she and Vice Chair Haning have been involved in private discussions with a couple of Lone Tree businesses about purchasing public art. When they are farther along in their conversation, they will then bring information about the project to the other Arts Commissioners.

Mayor Gunning shared that in response to Commissioners' feedback, \$100,000 has been approved in 2016 to upgrade the lobby lighting at the Arts Center. He emphasized that this was a significant amount of money and investment in the City's visual arts efforts. Chair Pearson asked if the upgrade would take place in time for the Commissioners' Choice program in January, and Ms. Peterson replied that the money has been budgeted for next fiscal year, so work will begin on assessment and design after January 1st. Additionally, any lobby work has to be done when there are no activities taking place at the Arts Center, so it is likely that this project would be completed in the summer.

Mayor Gunning shared that the two Commissioners' Choice shows have been approved in next year's budget, but the curated exhibits will be discontinued. The cost and time necessary to change exhibits frequently is becoming prohibitive and difficult, so Council has advised staff to lengthen the duration of the exhibits in 2016. Council continues to support the Douglas County Art Encounters program, and have agreed to increase the per artist stipend to \$1,000. Ms. Bragg clarified that at a recent Arts Encounters meeting, the group agreed to increase the stipend to \$800, not \$1,000, in 2016. There was discussion among the group about the perceived shortage of high quality pieces from which to choose from, and Chair Pearson stated that increasing the stipend was one way in which to encourage more varied submissions. Ms. Bragg suggested that if the City could consider a way in which to purchase a piece of art each year from Art Encounters, it may encourage additional purchases and entice more artists to participate.

Mayor Gunning urged Commissioners to become more active with the Lone Tree Chamber moving forward as they think about seeking partnerships for public art initiatives. The Chamber is working to increase its profile and advocacy for changes throughout the City of Lone Tree. Chair Pearson and Vice-Chair Haning stated that they had attended Business After Hours events, and would try to take advantage of upcoming Chamber events to become more involved.

Mayor Gunning asked the Commissioners what they thought *their* roles were on the Arts Commission. Commissioners Hardin, Pestana and Hubble all stated that they felt that their role as Arts Commissioners included supporting and promoting the Lone Tree Arts Center and the activities that take place there. Chair Pearson stated that she, too, felt the Arts Center was an important part of the City, and that she also felt that the Arts

Commission had a broader scope within the community. Commissioner Haning agreed. Mayor Gunning asked what this broader scope might look like, and Chair Pearson stated that we need more exposure and awareness for the arts, including arts education.

The Mayor mentioned that the role of the soon-to-be former Lone Tree Library building was one that he knew the Arts Commissioners were very interested in, and asked the Commissioners how they thought arts education could take place at this location. The Commissioners agreed that funding is an issue, because the programs need to be managed, instructors need to be paid, etc. The Mayor encouraged the Commissioners to do research into arts education classes currently provided in the City in order to assess what the actual needs and opportunities might be. He believes that Council would support these kinds of activities if there was a demonstrated need as well as perhaps a shared cost. The question Council members might ask is “Why would the City duplicate something that is already being done,” and they would respond more favorably to provide opportunities that don’t exist somewhere else. Mayor Gunning would like to see some of the research focus on elementary level children, and especially those who attend one of the three elementary schools located in the City. One idea to consider might be establishing a fine arts show from the three schools that would be displayed at the library building. The Mayor also suggested considering the opportunity to engage in partnership with the Lone Tree Photography Club to create education and mentor opportunities. Conversation about the potential opportunities at the library building concluded with the Mayor saying he looks forward to hearing what the Commissioners’ research might show.

Chair Pearson thanked Mayor Gunning for coming to discuss various issues, ideas and concerns with the commission members.

8. Staff Report

Ms. Bragg’s last day at the LTAC will be Friday, October 16th. This will also be the last day for Marketing Director Katie Maltais. The LTAC’s new Event Managers are Allissa Daily and Elaine Caras.

9. Adjournment

Commissioner Hardin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50pm and Vice Chair Haning seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.



CITY OF LONE TREE

TO: Lone Tree Arts Commission

FROM: Mayor Jim Gunning and City Council

DATE: October 13, 2015

SUBJECT: 2016 Arts and Culture Budget Items

During the FY2016 budget process, Council considered several items related to Arts and Culture programs, and after much deliberation reached the following decisions.

First, we have again budgeted for two Commissioners' Choice exhibits for 2016. We have instructed staff to discontinue the two curated exhibits, and asked them to lengthen the Photography Show, Art Expo, and the two Commissioners' Choice exhibits to allow for a decreased, reasonable number of individual art shows. Additionally, we've instructed them to continue to seek out exhibit rentals to groups such as the Watercolor Society and the Douglas County School District Art Show, since these programs draw large groups of the people to the Arts Center.

Secondly, we appreciate and accept your recommendations to upgrade the lobby lighting at the Arts Center to make it more 'visual arts friendly.' We have instructed staff to consult with the relevant technical experts to determine plans and cost to be sure that our comprehensive approach to upgrading the lobby lighting will achieve the results we expect. We have approved a budget of up to \$100,000, and hope that we can upgrade the Arts Center lobby lighting sometime in the first half of 2016.

Thirdly, at your recommendation, we have approved the continuation of Lone Tree's participation in the Douglas County Art Encounters program, and have agreed to increase the individual artist stipend to between \$800 - \$1,000. We did this in recognition of the joint jurisdictional efforts to significantly increase the quantity and quality of submissions that the group has to choose from.

Finally, once the interior Arts Center piece has been selected and installed, Council will then consider requests for additional funds for a new public art project. We are therefore postponing a decision on your request for an additional \$25,000 for public art. We have already approved a two-to-one match of \$21,000 to acquire an Arts Center piece, contingent on the Lone Tree Cultural Arts Foundation donating the final third of \$10,500 towards the project. The Foundation now has a draft agreement that they are reviewing, and we hope to get the agreement executed shortly. With the many steps involved, from finding a consultant, to drafting an RFP, to creating the community panel to review all

submissions and make recommendations, to final selection and placement, we anticipate that this project will likely take a good part of 2016 to complete.

Once we sign an agreement with the Foundation, we expect that the process for issuing an RFP can roll out this fall. As per City policy, the procedure for selecting the artist and acquiring this work will follow the adopted Public Art Procedures process, and will include the services of a curator or public art expert who will guide the entire process and advise a selection panel. The panel will make a recommendation from among the proposals for final approval by City Council. We are excited to follow your progress on this first City-initiated public art project at the Arts Center.

Looking forward, we anticipate that several City endeavors, including the Entertainment District redevelopment, creation of an Entertainment District Park, and the Lone Tree Arts Center plaza development will all be far enough along in planning next year that discussion about enhancement through public art will be well-timed. By working on a project by project basis, we can be assured that the City's investment in public art aligns with other City priorities in a timely and complementary way. There are tremendous opportunities in the coming few years, and we look forward to the Arts Commission's contributions to these efforts.