

**MINUTES OF THE
Lone Tree Arts Commission Regular Meeting
City of Lone Tree Arts Center
10075 Commons Street
6:00 p.m. July 1, 2015 (rescheduled from June 10)**

1. Call to Order

Chairman Nora Pearson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Arts Commissioners in attendance were Vice-Chairman Debi Haning, Commissioners Janice Hubbell, Kerry Jamison, Susan Stiff and Marianne Pestana. Also present was Jeannene Bragg, Operations Director, Lone Tree Arts Center (LTAC). Commissioner Mary Hardin was absent.

Chair Pearson welcomed new member Marianne Pestana who gave a brief summary of her background. She has her own business working with artists, authors and organizations in social media and promotions and is very interested in getting more involved with the Lone Tree community.

2. Additions to the Agenda

No additions were made to the agenda.

3. Approval of the May 14, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Ms. Hubbell motioned and Ms. Haning seconded approval with no changes. Upon voting, the motion passed unanimously.

4. Public Arts Committee Update

- A. **Art Encounters.** Chair Pearson reported that all the works for this year have been installed and there are 3 at Park Meadows and 3 at the Arts Center. Brochures and bookmarks were passed out to all attendees and everyone was encourage to see the art now in place.
- B. **LTAC Interior Artwork:** Vice Chair Haning reported that the match for the interior piece had been discussed at the Lone Tree Cultural Arts Foundation (LTCAF) meeting and was favorably received. Ms. Bragg is working on a draft Letter of Agreement between the City and the LTCAF to present to the board at an upcoming meeting.
- C. **Commissioners Choice:** Chair Pearson reminded the Commission members that the next Commissioners Choice show would open on August 2 and encouraged all to attend. This show by Ingrid Shults is the first time we have had an artist from out of state in our program. Ms. Bragg reported that regrettably she would be out of town for the event and asked the Commissioners to please come to meet Ms. Schults who is flying out (at her own expense) to attend the opening. Chair Pearson and Vice Chair Haning agreed to meet with Ms. Schults.

Chair Pearson asked Commissioner Pestana if she might be able to help us get more publicity on our art shows and events, especially in the Hub and on social media. Marianne said she would be willing to help but would need to meet with staff to understand the process and parameters of volunteering in this area.

5. Exhibitions Committee

There was no report from the Exhibitions committee at this meeting.

6. Children's Programming Committee Update

Commissioner Jamison reported that she was working with staff to set up Colorado Ballet's Page to Stage program with the local elementary schools. Acres Green is set for Nov. 4. The other two schools will need to wait until school starts up again in the fall to confirm dates and participation. Commissioners were encouraged to attend these shows if their schedule allows as they are a great experience for the kids. She also asked if it would be possible to create something like a bookmark or insert for Passport listing all of the upcoming events. Ms. Bragg said she would discuss this with the LTAC Marketing Director.

There was a brief discussion regarding the Children's Artwork submissions for the Lone Tree Holiday Card. The Commissioners are in favor of asking for submission from all three local schools this year and are hopeful they might find a way to use art from more than one school on the card depending on submissions. Commissioner Jamison offered to discuss this program with the schools soon after they open for the new school year since she will also be talking to them about Page to Stage already.

A children's programming committee will be scheduled in August.

7. Other Commissioner Reports

Chair Pearson said that she was working to get the South Suburban Art Committee out to see the potential donated piece later in the week. She will coordinate with staff about the meeting.

8. 2016 Budget Discussion

Ms. Bragg stated that staff is preparing the 2016 budget requests and each year we ask the Commission if they have any recommendations to be communicated regarding budget for Arts Commission programs. There was a lengthy discussion about current projects and the levels of funding. Ms. Bragg went over some of the program details and the current amounts in the budget.

Several members of the Commission expressed frustration with the changes to the Public Arts Budget and the inability to complete any new projects. Chair Pearson stated that she felt Public Art was an important City priority and should be given funding each year as it had been in the past. Ms. Bragg stated that it was unlikely in her opinion that Council would consider additional funding beyond the more than \$200,000 that remained in the budget, particularly if there was not a specific project identified.

Commissioner Haning reminded the group that she had been working to get a matching grant from the Lone Tree Cultural Arts Foundation for an interior art piece at the Arts Center and that Council had approved a \$21,500 match for that project.

Chair Pearson said she had been told that the site planning for the Arts Center was complete and asked Ms. Bragg when work could begin on the large piece of art. Ms. Bragg stated that to the best of her knowledge the site plan was not complete and no definite timeline was in place for the artwork, but that she would inquire about this with City Management.

Commissioner Jamison stated that she felt the Commissions role was to represent the entire City of Lone Tree and not just projects at the art center. Chair Pearson suggested that the Council be asked for an additional \$25,000 for artwork outside of the LTAC site.

After some additional discussion about various amounts and possible locations, Commission Hubbell made a motion to recommend to Council that an additional \$25,000 be allocated in the 2016 budget outside of the existing funds and the match for the interior piece at LTAC for a public art project in a Lone Tree location other than the arts center. Commissioner Stiff seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Chair Pearson said that the Art Encounters group (which includes representatives from Lone Tree, Parker, Castle Rock, Highlands Ranch and Roxborough) has discussed and is considering raising the stipend to get more participation by qualified arts in the process. Currently the artists receive \$500 for display of their piece for one year; the group is strongly considering raising this to \$1000 each which is comparable to similar programs in other areas. This would need to be a decision by the full Arts Encounters committee, but it was likely to occur and we should consider it in our budget.

After some discussion, Chair Pearson made a motion to recommend increasing the budget to include a \$1000 stipend for each artist. This was seconded by Commissioner Jamison and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Jamison asked about the status of the donated artwork and in particular the Frank Gehry furniture. Ms. Bragg said that although there were a few inquiries and reviews of the art work, none of the HOA's decided to place the work and that City Council had agreed that the Gehry furniture would be stored until a suitable indoor location could be found. The other art work (not including Drip/Puddle which was also to be stored awaiting an appropriate placement) would be deaccessioned. Chair Pearson said that Douglas County Libraries could not use the Gerhy furniture in their new library as they had an interior designer and concepts already in place that were very specific. She suggested that there may be place for the furniture in the vacated library which the City will be acquiring. There was some discussion of what would happen in that building with Ms. Bragg sharing that there had been no final decisions, Council was working on the planning and there was some desire for senior services in the building.

Chair Pearson made a motion to recommend to City Council that the Gehry furniture be placed in the former library building. Commissioner Jamison seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Jamison said that she feels strongly our children's programming should keep growing, especially since so many Seedlings were selling out. She asked for details about attendance and expenditures, which Ms. Bragg said she did not have with her but would be happy to provide. She mentioned that these were no longer in the Arts and Culture budget but had been moved into the Programming lines within the LTAC budget since LTAC staff was planning them along with other children's programming.

Commissioner Jamison said that since the Arts Center had opened, there seemed to be confusion and less of a role for the Arts Commission. Several members agreed with this statement. Chair Pearson stated that in the past, prior to the Art Center, there was more focus on Public Art and she felt it very important that this continued as it was different than what LTAC offered and very important to a healthy, well-rounded community. Commissioner Hubbell asked, "How can the Commission best support the City in addition to what the Art Center staff is doing?"

Chair Pearson asked when the budget recommendations would be presented to the City Council and if the Commission would be able to address the Council and discuss the budget. Ms. Bragg stated that in the previous year, the staff was asked to deliver the recommendations on behalf of the Commission and that there was not an official opportunity to address the Council until the formal budget hearings.

Commissioner Jamison asked that either the City Manager and the Mayor or a Council member come to a future meeting to discuss the role of the Commission. Chair Pearson stated that in the past there had been joint meetings with the Council and asked Ms. Bragg if the role of the Commission was included in the City Charter. Ms. Bragg said she would need to research this.

Commissioner Hubbell made a motion to request a joint meeting with the City Council or the attendance of the City Manager and Mayor/Councilmember(s) at our next meeting to discuss the continued role of the Commission. This was seconded by Susan Stiff and passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35.