



**MINUTES**

**June 2, 2014**

*The Edmonds Arts Commission: dedicated to the arts, an integral part of community life.*

City of Edmonds Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Department

**PRESENT:**

Samantha Saether  
Lois Rathvon  
Joanne Otness

Beverly Shaw Starkovich  
Marni Muir  
Kevin Conefrey  
Courtney Gu

**STAFF**  
Frances Chapin

**AUDIENCE**  
Darlene McLellan  
Norma Dermond  
Kathy Mollen  
David Little  
Kristiana Johnson

Excused: Suzy Maloney

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 PM by Samantha Saether, Vice Chair

**INTRODUCTIONS** –Commissioners and visitors introduced themselves. Norma Dermond and Kathy Moellenberndt are charter members of Cascade Symphony Orchestra and along with David Little are members of the board of directors for CSO. Darlene McLellan is the President of the Edmonds Arts Festival Foundation. Kristiana Johnson is a City Council member.

**AGENDA** – 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue and other public art projects moved to item 2, following Cello project.

**MINUTES** – April 7, 2014 and May 5, 2014 Minutes – Rathvon **MOVED**, Shaw **SECONDED**, Approved.

**REPORTS**

**A. Creative Programs**

1. **Cello Project** – The CSO representatives gave a brief overview of the project idea including the fact that they have 11 “disadvantaged” cellos at this time. They are not worth repairing and so they hope to give them a second life as a different type of artistic object and they see this as an opportunity for collaboration among arts organizations, encompassing both visual and performing arts. The project would benefit CSO by making people more aware of their ‘brand’. The painted cellos could be weather resistant depending on finishes. They envision them in public spaces and including some kind of music factoid. The project does not have to be a fundraiser, but depending on the model, they might be sold at the end of a summer display period. One way to involve kids might be to provide an opportunity for them to paint miniature cellos. They have looked into what kind of base would be appropriate for display. Some but not all have pegs and strings. They are not in a rush but would like to develop a fruitful partnership for the project over the next year. EAC commented that the Commission is experienced with the jurying process and might help develop and conduct a call for artists and jury process. A sponsorship model is another idea but EAC would be less likely to be involved. Friends of the Library might be a good partner since there is a strong educational component. The idea embraces the Cultural Plan goal for developing new partnerships and creative projects to attract visitors. Involving businesses might also be a part of it, adopt a cello. Discussion followed of various places to display, doesn’t have to be just the downtown core. Could tie to Jazz Connection as start date, display at Hazel Miller during summer, City Park, other venues, possibly the 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue Cultural Corridor. At some point might be good to see them all together, but might move from place to place. People will want to touch them so strings, pegs etc. may be good to include if durable. Might want to be able to spin some of them to show both sides. EAC will think more about ways to design the program and how EAC might partner and get back to CSO.
2. **WOTS** – Otness provided an update on progress with the conference program.

3. **Literary Walk** – Otness reported on the planning process. The partnership program is sponsoring a poetry reading at the end of the event with Kathleen Flenniken at the Hazel Miller Plaza and a speaker in the morning at the Library.
4. **Public Art** – Chapin followed up on the Cello project ideas for temporary exhibit on 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue and provided the Commission with a quick summary of concepts that artist Benson Shaw prepared as a ideas for surface treatment projects to highlight the corridor that might be implemented before the long term project of redoing the street is funded. The report was commissioned by EAC utilizing a donation from the Edmonds Arts Festival Foundation following a meeting two months ago with the Mayor, EAFF representatives, ECA executive director, Chapin, and the Planning Manager Rob Chave. Chapin requested EAC review and be ready to discuss in more detail in July.

The possibility of a major public art project at the Edmonds Library site was discussed. The old book box in the front that is no longer used will be demolished in 2015 to expand the planting bed and this creates the opportunity to landscape and add art elements to the approach to the building from Main Street. The Friends of the Edmonds Library have expressed interest in artwork and have pledged \$5,000 to the project. The Edmonds Arts Festival Foundation is also interested in helping fund the project. EAC will determine a budget at the July meeting. Chapin asked the Commission for a consensus on removing the Centennial Quilt from City Hall to give the fabric a rest and the possibility of offering it to the Museum for occasional display, EAC concurred. Chapin reported that building maintenance hung five baskets by Joyeanna Chaudiere in the north stairwell of the Frances Anderson Center. The installation is called “Family” and three of the baskets are on long term loan from the family.

The proposed donation from the Kimmelman family was discussed again following up on information presented at the May meeting. Chapin summarized the location at the entry to Yost Park, requirements for a fall zone similar to playground equipment which might require submerging about 8” of the base, and concerns about maintenance. There is no water or electrical available for maintenance on any regular basis and there are large deciduous trees overhead. Shaw Moved to recommend review and acceptance of the donation at City Council, contingent on presenting the limitations to the donor and securing agreement that the acceptance would include these conditions regarding installation and maintenance. Muir Seconded the Motion.
5. **City Strategic Plan** –Chapin briefly reviewed the Strategic Plan objectives that include mention of the EAC or the Cultural Services Division. She pointed out that there are eight objectives where they are listed as one of the leads, but in most cases Economic Development is the main lead. She noted that when the lead agencies were identified it was meant as a suggestion, but might include others or be different when it came to actual implementation. For example, 1e.7 is to explore ways to develop a museum. Right now that project is being moved forward by a private entity, and Cultural Services is not involved. The other objectives for which Cultural Services is listed as one of the leads include Art and History Walking Tours; Artist Live/Work Space; 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue Cultural Corridor; Promotion - Arts and Culture (website with calendar); Organization - Arts and Culture (clearinghouse – seems to be part of website and calendar objective); Marketing - Arts and Culture (visitor surveys); Design - Arts and Culture (includes public art, gateways, wayfinding etc); and Highway 99 International District.

## B. Capital Projects

1. **Five Corners Roundabout** – Chapin reported that the artist CJ Rench provided a new image for the ribbon element wrapping the five center piers which she provided for EAC review. The colors are not exact in the image. She also showed the placement of the artwork title as inlays in the sidewalk edge on two sides of the street. Commissioners commented favorably.
2. **Cultural Heritage Tour** – The 12 plaques are scheduled to be installed by the end of June. Three will be installed earlier on walls outside Starbucks, the Edmonds Theater in the alley, and the Churchkey Pub. A ribbon cutting/dedication is planned for July 17. It would occur at 5 pm right at

the start of the Art Walk. Ideas included: people in costume at each plaque to discuss history; hand out brochure; start with puppets at the ECA plaque; start at the Museum; cookies at the Museum (privately provided); send out press release inviting the public. Conefrey, Otness, Muir and Rathvon offered to assist with specific functions.

### **C. Funding & Administration**

- I. **Code of Ethics** – Chapin went over the Code of Ethics that EAC has signed for many years. Commissioners signed. The Code of Conduct adopted by City Council as a Resolution was discussed by EAC in April.

STAFF REPORT – Chapin reported that interviews have been conducted for a part time temporary position to assist with the conference and other arts office tasks.

OTHER BUSINESS – None.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS – Kristiana Johnson mentioned the Code of Conduct and also wanted to make sure that Commissioners were aware of the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual volunteer picnic on August 24 at City Park.

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:28 PM**