

May 14, 2025

**Members Present:** Bob Hogan, Kami Bratten, Stephen Cheng, Zach Wight, Todd Young

**Staff Present:** Jonn Lunsford, Darby Jordan

**Called to Order:** 4:02 PM

**Minutes:** April minutes were unanimously approved.

**Public Comments:** Sharon Watson was in attendance to speak about the 98221 Gallery, learn about how the art is chosen and learn how the Commission works. She is hoping to see more of a draw for opening night of the Art Walk, better refreshments (which she is willing to volunteer to help with), more advertising, and possible demonstrations of art creation. Sharon is also wondering about how art is priced and chosen.

Zach spoke about how the jury process works with 3 Commissioners running the program and helping to advertise. But the Commission is always open to new ideas and suggestions.

Sharon admitted that there are issues advertising for all events and venues. Todd acknowledged that the Commission is aware of the difficulty advertising and drawing a crowd and they would love any new help and ideas.

There was also discussion about the placement and hanging of the art with a reassurance that there is lots of traffic through the Council Chambers.

**Correspondence & Communication:** Jonn shared that the other Commissions and Boards have been having budget discussions and he will bring that to the Arts Commission in June.

**Art Scavenger Hunt:** Kami spoke about this project with the public art being divided into 7 zones with 3 to 6 pieces of art per zone. Discussion was had about how to distribute copies of the entries as well as when to hold the event. Zach was going to discuss the project with the Downtown Anacortes Alliance.

**98221 Gallery & Questions:** Bob spoke about the Gallery and the work that goes into getting the word out via social media and email. This is a show that draws new artists, people that have not shown their art previously. A new idea was discussed to have a combination Art Walk/Show Opening along with the Jazz Walk. This could bring in more people to view the art. Bob is going to add an offer to come and demonstrate art creation along with the acceptance emails. The deadline for submissions is Friday with Trish, Kami and Bob to help jury. Todd expressed interest in helping with this as well. The show will be hung June 2-4<sup>th</sup> in time for the Art Walk in June.

**Piano-cortes:** The Arts Festival is helping with this project by advertising for artists to paint the two pianos.

**Voice & Verse:** Kami started by giving a brief history of this project, started when an author came forward to ask about any grant possibilities for written and illustrated art. This started a discussion about needing more support for the written and musical arts. Questions have been raised about how to display/share/present this type of art especially in a way to benefit the City. It was suggested to collaborate with the Arts Festival in April during their "Poetry Month".

The timeline suggested was to announce the grant this summer with a deadline of September for selection and then presentation in April.

Discussion was had about the current budget and ways forward to fund the grant.

A motion was made to move the Voice & Verse grant forward to the next steps, utilizing \$2000 of the Commission's budget. Jonn will speak with legal and finance about the details and the Commission will wait to announce the grant until those approvals have been obtained.

**Chair Election:** There was a unanimous approval for Zach to continue as Chair and for Todd to serve as Vice Chair.

**Other Business:**

Zach announced that there was approximately 200 participants in the Procession of the Species with about 1000 viewers.

Meeting adjourned at 5:02pm

Respectfully submitted by Darby Jordan