

BELLEVUE ARTS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES

June 6, 2015
4:30 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Room 1E -109

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chairperson Manfredi, Commissioners Lewis, Madan, Malkin, Wolfeich

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Commissioners Jackson

STAFF PRESENT: Mary Pat Byrne, Scott MacDonald, Department of Planning and Community Development

OTHERS PRESENT: Vicki Scuri, artist; Barbara Luecke, Kurt Kiefer, Sound Transit

RECORDING SECRETARY: Gerry Lindsay

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:34 p.m. by Chairperson Manfredi who presided. All Commissioners were present with the exception of Commissioner Jackson who was excused.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

A. Approval of Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner Malkin. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Madan and it carried unanimously.

B. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the February 10, 2015, minutes as submitted was made by Commissioner Malkin. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Madan and it carried unanimously.

3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Osia Morningstar, 10022 Meydenbauer Way SE, said she has lived in Bellevue for about a year and has found that equitable opportunities to enjoy art and culture are lacking. Seattle Center offers a number of free festivals and events and it would be good for the Tateuchi Center to do the same. The city's venues should be made available for different types of events, not just the same ones all the time. The city should also offer town hall discussions of the type offered in Seattle. Also, Bellevue needs to find better ways to get the word out about arts and culture events.

4. ACTION ITEMS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. East Link Public Art: Hospital Station

Barbara Luecke, manager of the Sound Transit Art program, introduced Vicki Scuri, one of two artists working on the South Bellevue station, and Kurt Kiefer, a project manager with the Sound Transit Art program.

Mr. Kiefer shared with the Commissioners the basic layout of the South Bellevue station, including the station, the elevated light rail alignment, and the parking garage. He noted that like all of the stations there will be a lot of concrete. However, the South Bellevue station has two artwork treatments and extensive coloration by the architects.

Ms. Scuri called attention to the acoustic panels across the top of the station. She noted that they are four feet tall and stretch eleven hundred feet along the alignment. She said the challenge given to her was to humanize the station by giving the panels some relation to the station, the site, the climate and the seasons. The pattern chosen is based on seasonal change and the use of sequences. The columns below the guideway will be treated with the images of leaves, evoking the four seasons and the idea of the passage of time.

With regard to the acoustic panels, Ms. Scuri noted that the pattern sequence continues beyond the station by several hundred feet both to the north and south and seemingly blends into gray. The material will be porcelain enamel.

Answering a question asked by Arts Specialist Mary Pat Byrne, Ms. Scuri confirmed that the artwork will not be on the side of the acoustic panels facing the train so the passengers will not be able to see it.

Commissioner Malkin asked how the panels will be illuminated at night. Ms. Luecke said they will be lit by the ambient light of the parking lot. The Enatai neighborhood has been very sensitive to any kind of lighting, so there will be no attempt to light the panels specifically. .

Ms. Luecke said there will be architectural treatments marking the north and south entrance areas. A ceiling has been designed to seal up the base of the guideway, masking conduit and the like. There will be some perforated vertical strips hanging down to create a marker that draws the eye. A family of colors will be employed within the station at the direction given by the Light Rail Permitting CAC.

Mr. Kiefer said artist Katy Stone is also working with the forms and colors found in Mercer Slough. Her focus is on the west-facing surface of the parking garage. She has three projects: a sculpture, the design of the perforated metal screens, and the vertical fins that front the garage. Mr. Kiefer gave a brief description of each artist component that Ms. Stone is designing.

Ms. Luecke said the same lighting issue applies to Ms. Stone's work. She said because the garage will be lit, all of Ms. Stone's artworks will be backlit, with the perforated mesh being the most visible at night. Commissioner Manfredi commented that the perforated element will be very nice with natural light as well.

Answering a question asked by Commissioner Madan, Ms. Luecke explained that because the acoustic panels will be part of the station, the general contractor will bid out the work.

Ms. Luecke thanked Commissioner Manfredi for his participation in helping to select an artist for the hospital station.

Mr. Kiefer explained that the light rail alignment leaving the downtown station crosses I-405 and makes a big turn before crossing NE 8th Street and arriving at the elevated hospital station. After leaving the station the alignment continues north and begins to descend toward street level before running in a trench through the Spring District and then back up to street level at the 130th station. He said the hospital station will in a lot of ways be similar in form to the South Bellevue station in that it will be elevated and have a center-loading platform. The station will have a bus drop-off zone on NE 8th Street and will have a kiss and ride area on the east side of the station. A pathway will be created on the north side leading to 116th Avenue NE and the hospital, and a north-south trail will be constructed in the Burlington Northern/Sante Fe right-of-way.

Mr. Kiefer said Sound Transit has established a roster of artists from which to choose. In the case of the hospital station, the idea is to highlight the entrances. The lobby and the spaces beneath the guideway have been identified as having potential for artwork. The artists were asked to specifically think about creating hanging internally lit objects. A short list of artists was developed from which the panel interviewed three artists and selected Phillip K. Smith.

Commissioner Manfredi said he enjoyed serving on the panel and found the process to be very rewarding. The process was very well managed by Ms. Luecke and Mr. Kiefer. The theme of development and change in Bellevue was central to the conversation. The group collectively concluded that Mr. Smith will be able to respond to the challenge.

With regard to the downtown station, Ms. Luecke said noted local glass artist Paul Marioni has come up with a concept for the north windscreen and has other ideas that could be incorporated into the overall design team collaboration. His scope is being expanded to include a terrazzo floor for the east entry. The artist team tapped to address the vertical surface above the portal are working to develop their concept.

5. COMMISSION QUICK BUSINESS

Ms. Byrne said there is a lot going on but not much to bring before the Commission in the near future. She proposed canceling the July meeting and not meeting again until August. There was consensus to do that.

6. REPORTS

- A. Commissioners' Committee and Lead Reports - As Noted
- B. Project Updates from Staff
 - i. Monthly Project Update Report

Mr. MacDonald said the Lattawood Park project is moving forward. He has met with staff from several city departments to discuss the history of the park and any possible issues or concerns with locating art in Lattawood Park. The site for many years was used as a community space where the Latta family and neighborhood kids played prior to the City purchasing the land. The descendants and relatives of the Latta family still live adjacent to the park. The next step will be to kick off the public art process.

With regard to the Lake Hills Puget Sound Energy poles project, MacDonald said he discussed the project with staff from the Utilities and Transportation departments, as well as Developmental Services staff focused on work in the right-of-way. Utilities staff concluded they have no stake in the project at all. The right-of-way staff simply directed that all

applicable codes be followed and to keep in mind that the primary focus of roadways is to move people and goods efficiently. Another meeting is planned with Transportation to review site distance issues and the like.

Ms. Byrne said there is always a tension between public art and the degree to which it is perceived people driving cars will be distracted by it. The bigger concern is making sure there is no element of the art that will fall down on cars or pedestrians in the case of an accident.

Answering a question asked by Commissioner Madan, Ms. Byrne explained that under the city's rules the Commission can work with any artist roster that has been developed by any other agency. That is in fact the strategy normally used.

Ms. Byrne informed the Commissioners that she had been directed by the City Manager to put together an art display in the City Hall concourse celebrating Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. The original suggestion was made by Jerry Lee who offered to help in identifying and borrowing works for the display. The temporary exhibit opened on May 4 and the feedback from the community was very positive.

Commissioner Malkin suggested it would be worth considering having a rotation of exhibits at City Hall celebrating various cultures. Ms. Byrne said she would put together a plan and bring to the Commission for discussion, but stressed that it could very easily morph into something too big for Arts staff to manage.

Ms. Byrne said she and Mr. MacDonald are gearing up for Bellwether 2016 and the next round of allocations. She suggested that either the Bellwether or the funding committee could meet on the July meeting date. It was agreed the Bellwether committee would meet on that day.

Commissioner Manfredi officially appointed Commissioner Lewis to serve as a member of the Bellwether committee.

With regard to filling the open Commission seat, Ms. Byrne said there were 12 persons who applied, none of whom are known to her. The Mayor will select about three candidates to interview. A selection should be made by the end of June.

ii. Neighborhood Public Art Project Update

Mr. MacDonald said Newport Hills public art project artist Bruce Myers is planning to start building the foundation for his work on June 11. While the concrete cures he will finish up the final details on the artwork itself prior to installation.

7. CORRESPONDENCE, INFORMATION

A. Written Correspondence - As Noted

B. Information

i. Future Agenda Items - As Noted

ii. Committees - As Noted

8. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Manfredi adjourned the meeting at 6:20 p.m.