

MINUTES OF THE VISUAL ARTS COMMISSION MEETING

Visual Arts Center
Washington Pavilion – Board Room 4th Floor
300 S Main Avenue
Sioux Falls SD 57104

- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ann Marie Davis, Ceca Cooper, Lary Etten, Anita Kealey, Lyle Pudwill
- MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jerry Hauck and Kris Carmody Reaves
- OTHERS PRESENT:** David Merhib, Visual Arts Center Washington Pavilion, Darwin Wolf, Sculptor, Sam Trebilcock – Transportation Planner, Brent O’Neil – Urban Planner, Candy Van Dam - Insight Marketing Design, Doug Moss, Insight Marketing Design, and Russ Sorenson, Planning Office Staff Liaison.

ITEM 1. Welcome & Introductions

Acting Chairperson, Lary Etten, called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. and welcomed the Commissioners and guests.

On behalf of Gary Wood, Executive Director for the Washington Pavilion of Arts and Science, Pavilion staff and volunteers, David Merhib, Director for the Visual Arts Center, Washington Pavilion, expressed a warm welcome to the Commissioners and was excited to showcase the Visual Arts Center with a “Behind the Scenes” tour after the meeting. The Commissioners acknowledged their sincere appreciation to Mr. Merhib for his kind hospitality and hosting their meeting.

ITEM 2. REVIEW & ACTION on the June 17, 2008, Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Ceca Cooper made a motion to approve the June 17, 2008 meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Ann Marie Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Anita Kealy arrived at the meeting.

ITEM 3. GENERAL DISCUSSION about Future Visual Art Opportunities within our Community

Mr. David Merhib, Director for the Visual Arts Center, Washington Pavilion, explained the purpose of the Visual Arts Center is to bring visual arts to children and adults through exhibitions, education, collections and special events. Mr. Merhib commented the Visual Arts Center is made up of six galleries of changing exhibitions featuring local and regional artists, as well as national touring art exhibitions. The galleries include the works of Native American artists, as well as the Raven Industries Children's Studio. Free community lectures and artist receptions are held throughout the year. Admission is free, however, fees may be charged, for some special exhibits.

Mr. Merhib remarked it is important for the center to open its doors and showcase local, regional and national visual art in a public forum. Any proposed improvements to the Visual Arts Center are examined and recommended through the city’s Capital Improvement Process (CIP). He

mentioned the Pavilion and Visual Arts Center are at the edge of proceeding to the next development level.

Discussion ensued among commissioners about achieving more awareness and a sense of place for the Visual Arts Center. Several commissioners expressed there are opportunities to create more community, regional and national awareness for the center. Perhaps this could be accomplished with more high profile promotion of the Visual Arts Center's featured artists, artworks, and special events through website development. Another opportunity would be to cultivate existing and new partnerships for the Visual Arts Center by involving centers for higher education, and medical communities and private businesses within South Dakota and the midwest region.

Another idea presented involved further development of the existing outdoor sculpture garden located on the north end of the Pavilion. The sculpture garden could serve as an identifier and enticement to the public to explore art behind the Center's doors. Commissioners suggestions to achieve a sense of place within the sculpture garden space include encouraging national artist calls for art, perhaps featuring certain sculptures from the Downtown SculptureWalk program, hosting more special art events for children and student sculptors, and providing additional landscaping to enhance the area within and around the garden space.

With enthusiasm, the Commissioners expressed their willingness to continue working with the Visual Arts Center to promote visual art in public places.

ITEM 4. DISCUSSION & ACTION on Calls for Art

- a) Free-form Design Art Racks (non-standard bicycle racks) on Private and Public Property.
- b) Standard Design Art Racks (non-standard bicycle racks) on Public Property (affixed to parking meters)

Acting Chairperson, Lary Etten, summarized the commission's efforts of placing art racks (non-standard bicycle racks) within our downtown area, community businesses and on city property. Acknowledging that existing bicycle racks are functional, but not very attractive, Mr. Etten Indicated the commission is working together with the cycling community and various other city entities such as Public Works, Parking Patrol, Police, Parks & Recreation Board, ADA Board, Downtown Sioux Falls, on addressing:

- implementation of art racks into the 2009 Phillips Avenue Reconstruction Project;
- creating art racks that are cost effective, attractive and durable;
- retrofitting some of the existing parking meters with art racks;
- providing design specifications / standards that could be used in the call for art;
- call for art should address two design forms for the art racks - those which are of free-form design on private property and those which are on public property and of an acceptable community design standard;
- obtaining community sponsorships for implementing an art rack placement program.

Russ Sorenson commented the DRAFT Calls for Art reflect the Commission's suggestions from last month's meeting discussion. He noted that one call for art addresses free-form design art racks for either private or public property and another call for art addresses standard design art racks to be located public property (parking meters).

The Commission then reviewed calls for art and offered additional suggestions to improve the calls for art relating to specific design and location criteria. Russ Sorenson indicated that he would modify the calls for art accordingly.

Commissioner Ann Davis left the meeting.

ITEM 5. PROJECT UPDATES (Staff &/or Subcommittees)

- a) CommUnity Youth Mosaic (Phase III)
Russ Sorenson indicated the students and art teachers are working on fundraising efforts for Phase III of the project. Russ commented he would continue to keep the Commissioners informed about this project.
- b) Visual Art Wall – N Phillips Ave
Russ Sorenson mentioned the project contract between the artist and the city was finalized. He indicated the artist has selected a structural engineer to conduct an engineering plan report. Russ indicated that he would continue to keep the Commissioners informed about this project.
- c) Website Updates - Completed
Russ Sorenson stated the Commission’s website page link has been updated.

ITEM 6. PUBLIC INPUT

There was no further input received from the public.

ITEM 7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEXT MEETING – August 19, 2008 Carnegie Town Hall

ITEM 8. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

The Commissioners again acknowledged their sincere appreciation to Mr. Merhib for his kind hospitality and hosting their meeting.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:45 am.

ITEM 9. TOUR - Visual Art Center

A very informative “Behind the Scenes” tour of the Visual Arts Center, including the historical building aspects, artworks, and project endeavors, was then conducted by Mr. David Merhib, Director, for the Visual Art Center.

HANDOUTS – July 15, 2008 Meeting

- July 15, 2008 Meeting Agenda
- June 17, 2008 Meeting Minutes
- Handouts for Items 2 & 4.