

LaConner Arts Commission

LaConner Civic Garden Club

October 5, 2009

In attendance: Becky Chamberlain, Clair Eberle, Tracy Powell, Pat Doran, John Doyle, Town Administrator, Kathy Hubbard, Town Council Rep.

Absent: Kelly Wynn

Moved by Claire and 2nd by Tracy to accept the minutes of the last meeting.

Announcements: John reported that the Hotel/Motel revenues are about 30% less than last year. Current reimbursements for expenditures by recipients of the funds are being pro-rated and slowly disbursed. There are issues over lost revenue to the Chamber of Commerce and the Town is trying to balance the budget for next year. Kathy stated that we still need to help fund the museums and Chamber but is a challenge to stay within the budget in this economy.

Claire suggested that we have a Christmas tree decorating contest to draw more people to Town to shop as we need to compete with other towns for their business. She hoped we could come up with other new ideas as well. Pat mentioned that the businesses had a Xmas window decorating contest last year. This year's tree lighting ceremony will be Saturday, Dec. 5th.

Sculpture Show Update: The sculpture is currently in hiatus as we remove the old sculptures to prepare to install the new ones to open in March. The loan/sales agreements have been updated and are ready to send out to the new sculptors. The Sculpture Committee decided to go back to the original plan of opening in the spring instead of in the fall because there was too much work involved with Art's Alive! In conjunction with the opening of the sculpture show there will also be a dedication ceremony for the renaming of Kenmare Square to Gilkey Square. The Gilkey family has been notified and would like to be involved (over 30 known in the area) and may possibly donate some funds for the Squares' improvements. Tracy noted that other towns offer much larger stipends to artists for showing their work and suggests that we increase the stipend we offer from \$100 to \$200. He also has researched the printing costs for our rack cards and thinks we can save almost \$500 by using an Anacortes business. The committee also recommended that the three jurors for the show be more local people because they are more aware of the flavor of the Town. Moved by Claire and 2nd by Becky to increase the stipend to \$200 with a limit on the number of sculptors depending on the budget. Passed

The balance of the Commission budget is \$13,850 after the final payment on the *Fish Bridge* and purchase of the *Silent Words* sculpture. Income from tax

revenues was \$2000 last year with some funds from the Washington Arts Commission. Sales tax revenues remain steady although hotel stays are down.

LaConner will be making a promotional video and the expense will be split between the Town and the Port.

John reported that they are again working with a landscape architect for the boardwalk design which includes *Gilkey Square*. Next Parks Commission meeting is Oct. 4th at 2pm. The Commission is considering moving the three sculptures in *Gilkey Square* to Pioneer Park.

New Business: The presentation by the LaConner Art Institute was tabled to the next meeting.

Moved to adjourn by Becky and 2nd by Claire. Passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Doran
Secretary