

LaConner Arts Commission

LaConner Civic Garden Club

Nov. 8, 2011

In Attendance: Kelly Wynn, Tracy Powell, Gerald Johnson, Kathie Hubbard, Town Council Rep., John Doyle, Town Administrator, Ramon Hayes, Mayor of LaConner, Pat Doran

Moved by Tracy and 2nd by Pat that the minutes of the Oct. 3, 2011 meeting be approved. Passed

Public Comment

Mayor Hayes discussed the status of the Arts Commission and thanked the members for their service and their role in making Art's Alive! a success this year. He asked the members for their input on creating new events or festivals for the Town in the years to come, seeking new partners and new ideas.

Gerald mentioned that Fidalgo Island has 300 sculptures on display and plans for a sculpture park. Discussion ensued regarding seeking more sculptures for the current empty spaces in Town. Tracy commented that it is the cost of installation that limits the artists from entering in our annual sculpture show. Bellevue and Mercer Island give stipends to artists of between \$500 to \$1000 per piece. Ramon commented that the budget this year from the Town is very limited and we have not sold a sculpture in 3 years, with the exception of the ones purchased by the Town for the permanent collection. It was stated that we should be reaching out more to the public and involve more businesses, the museums and the Tribe.

With regards to the improvements proposed for the Maple Hall courtyard Gerald suggested that the dead Madrona tree could be made into a sculpture. It is proposed in the 2012 Town Budget to rearrange the courtyard for better access for seniors as it is the location for the Sr. Center on Tuesdays. The Director of the Sr. Center, Jana Gage requested removing the brick flower box and possibly creating a mural on the side of the building or a clock honoring the Conner family for whom the Town is named.

Electronic tags that can be read with the new phone technology will be attached to the info boxes near each sculpture that can be scanned for more information about the sculptures and the artists. This is in addition to placement on the Destination LaConner Map of all the permanent sculpture collection.

John Hastings and Gail Thulen have expressed that they would like something honoring the agricultural, fishing and logging heritage of the area.

Budget

Kelly will take our budget request for \$2000 from the Tourism Grant Fund to the next Town Council meeting. It was stated that the disbursement of the Tourism money is currently being discussed and there may not be any funds for the Commission this year. Commission members are encouraged to try to sell more sculptures making it more attractive for artists to submit work.

Other ideas included imbedding poetry in the new sidewalk on 2nd Street. Perhaps the Skagit Valley Poetry Festival coordinators or writer's groups might like to be a part of this idea. This was tabled to the next meeting for discussion noting that the sidewalks on 1st Street will be improved next year.

Judging for the sculptures will be done by Kathleen Moles from MoNA, Sylvia Strong from the River Gallery and Wade Marlow formerly of the Blue Horse Gallery in Bellingham in December.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Doran, Secretary