

LOVELAND VISUAL ARTS COMMISSION: REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, MARCH 10TH, 2016
LOVELAND MUSEUM GALLERY: FOOTE GALLERY
5:00 PM REGULAR VAC BUSINESS

The March 10th, 2016 VAC meeting was officially called to order at 5:00 pm by Chairperson Nancy Jakobsson. Commissioners present: Roger Clark, Greg Hoff, Nancy Jakobsson, Maryjo Morgan, Judy O’Gorman, Abbie Powers, Sara Turner and Jade Windell. Also present was Jonathan Taggart (Conservator), Jennifer Cousino (Loveland Museum Gallery), Polly and Mac Juneau, Sherri Heckel Kuhlmann (Loveland High Plains Arts Council). Staff liaisons Susan Ison, Kimber Kreutzer and Katie Fowers were also in attendance.

Call Meeting to Order

- A. **Additions or Corrections to the March 10th, 2016 meeting agenda:** Item H) *Museum Expansion* was added under staff updates.
- B. **Additions or Corrections to the February 4th, 2016 meeting minutes:** There were no additions or corrections to the minutes. Maryjo Morgan moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Judy O’Gorman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- C. **Citizen Comments:** Citizens wishing to address the Visual Arts Commission shall be allotted 3 minutes to address VAC business. There were 3 citizens present, but none wished to comment on business.

VAC Business/Action Items

- A. **Jonathan Taggart, Conservator:** Jonathan Taggart, a conservator hired by the VAC to assess the condition of the collection and address allegations of mishandling the maintenance of the collection was at the meeting to report his opinion to the VAC. While his work is not complete as of the meeting on Thursday night, he has had 4 days to assess the collection and give his professional opinion about the condition, how it has been maintained thus far and some suggestions about how to care for it in the future. He specifically focused on Benson Park during his visit. He created and distributed to the VAC a more comprehensive document than just the points listed here, but here are some main things that he wanted to emphasize at the meeting:
 - a. Complimented the LHPAC, The Loveland Museum/Gallery staff and the VAC for great condition of the collection and commended them for their efforts in maintaining it thus far.
 - b. The costs of maintaining such a large collection is growing exponentially and continues to grow each year with all the new additions. This is causing a burden for the VAC and their budget.
 - c. He suggested that the VAC start to develop a long term maintenance plan. This might entail any or all of the following: an endowment, an educational program, a full time staff position to oversee maintenance, a volunteer program or fundraising.
 - d. Jonathan showed examples of our collection that give a general idea of what most of the problems are. For the most part, they are minor, but some are major and need to be addressed immediately. Some of the things that he discovered are:
 - i. Mineral deposits from water (most likely from sprinklers). This is most likely easily removed by washing.
 - ii. Mineral deposits building up on bases, and wells in the sculptures. This can be very difficult to remove and could find corroded metal underneath. He also suggested weep holes in these cases.
 - iii. Addressed the coatings: need to know if it is lacquered or not and then determine whether it should be hot or cold waxed each year. Every 10 or 15 years it should be stripped down and recoated.
 - e. Lots of dog urine on certain pieces because of placement. Suggested someone clean and wax every 3 months.
 - f. Lawn mowing equipment had damaged some pieces.
 - g. Some pieces had graffiti removed and solvent possibly took off lacquer coating and not properly replaced and is now discolored.
 - h. Some of the newer pieces added to the collection are already starting to fail and will need extensive conservation in the near future and will be an ongoing problem for the city.
 - i. Plaques in the park are in really bad shape and need to be cleaned and fixed in many cases.

- j. Many of the plinths and bases are in bad shape that make the collection look dowdy. Should be a plan about plinths before the pieces are accepted.
- k. There needs to be picture documentation of each sculpture each year so that we know the changing condition of the sculptures from year to year.
- l. It is not standard practice to put hot wax over a lacquer coating. He cannot speak to the process because he does not know much about it, but would be interested to talk to past conservators about the benefit.

After this assessment, the VAC and others asked questions that they felt needed to be addressed. Jonathan expressed that the most important thing to do at this point was continue with yearly maintenance and to address the immediate concerns as quickly as possible in order to keep the collection intact for the longest period of time. The most important thing to address at this point would be to assess and re-lacquer the pieces that need it. It is also important going forward to know what the artist intent for the piece is to better determine how to maintain the piece.

Record keeping is important going forward. Jonathan has done a thorough job assessing the Benson Park collection and has made detailed notes and suggested maintenance for this year.

Before the next meeting, Katie will enter the information into the database. The VAC will also review the document provided to them by Jonathan and be prepared to discuss at the March meeting.

- B. LHPAC, Mac Juneau:** It was discussed at the February meeting that the VAC and LHPAC collaborate to establish a Maintenance Committee that would be comprised of members of both organizations. Mac Juneau felt that in order to simplify and streamline the maintenance process, only one member from each organization is necessary. Mac will represent the LHPAC and Greg Hoff will represent the VAC. In general, Mac will oversee the issues in Benson Park and Greg will oversee the rest of the collection. Any maintenance that is to be done with the collection must be brought to the VAC before any action is taken. Also, any issues that are over \$5,000 require a written bid.

Roger Clark also suggested establishing an annual, seasonal get-together with members of the LHPAC and the VAC. It was recommended that this be in May before the LHPAC gets to the busy summer months with the Sculpture in the Park Show.

- C. Maintenance, Jennifer Cousino (Mehaffey Park and *Loving the Moment*):** It was recommended that Pat Kipper assess the rest of the collection that Jonathan Taggart did not have time to fully assess. He will also be approached about any special treatments that the collection might need.

Loving the Moment by Kathleen Carricof was not covered under insurance per the Department of Risk Management. The artist thought that the original crack was caused by wicking water and when it was removed it added more stress to the crack. It is also possible that the rod inside caused further damage because it is a large, vertical mass that was stressed by the wind. Sherri Heckel Kuhlmann asked for any written documentation about the refusal so that the LHPAC might review it and possibly appeal the decision. In addition, it was strongly suggested that after the piece is fixed by the artist that it be placed inside. Members of the VAC will come next week with relocation suggestions.

The column in Mehaffey Park that is damaged is getting progressively worse because of the shifting soil. The artist has been out to temporarily stabilize the sculpture until a more permanent fix can be made. This will be finished before Parks and Rec turns on the sprinklers in the spring.

- D. Budget, Susan Ison:** Susan distributed an updated budget. There were no questions from the VAC at this point.
- E. FAB Update, Kimber Kreutzer:** The City will be receiving the piece sometime in March. Jon Dilgarde has already been contacted about installing it and are waiting on a definitive date for installing it. The tentative dedication date has been set for June 10th.
- F. Wilson Avenue Bridge Update, Kimber Kreutzer:** The artist is just waiting on his first payment in order to get started on fabrication. All looks to be on schedule for a summer installation for the “Wilson Watchmen”.

- G. Boards and Commissions Dinner Report, Abbie Powers:** Abbie Powers and Sara Turner attended the dinner last week. They gave a 15 slide presentation to the group about the projects that the VAC have been working on for the past 3 years. These included but were not limited to: Mehaffey Park, Equinox, TAAP, TAAP 2D, Transformations, AIPP 30th Anniversary Celebration, and International Sculpture Day.
- H. Dart Heart Coffee Mural:** The owners of Dark Heart Coffee presented the VAC with the proposal for the artwork on the side of their building. They estimated the total cost for the project at \$4,400. Based on attorney approval, Roger Clark moved for the VAC to fund 50% of the mural to max out at \$2,200. Seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- I. 2D Rotation Committee, Maryjo Morgan:** John Dilgarde will be hanging the artwork in the recommended spaces as soon as time allows. In addition, Maryjo will talk to Marcia Lewis about interest in having the Roy Wilce Triptych in the archive room. She will also determine whether or not the piece will fit in the space.
- J. International Sculpture Day, Susan Ison:** International Sculpture Day is April 24th and the VAC would like to participate in some way. After discussion, it was determined that a small committee consisting of Maryjo Morgan, Jade Windell, Kimber Kreutzer and Katie Fowers will meet to plan the event for that day. This will most likely focus on children and youth that will include a free day at the museum and a scavenger hunt.
- K. Herb Zimmerman – lighting and plinth, Kimber Kreutzer:** Kimber got an estimate for the plinth is \$3,550. However, if the plinth is concrete, lighting the piece as it is now will be a problem. As it stands now, if there is a problem with the light, or it has to be rewired, the entire plinth will need to be removed. Because of these complications, a discussion followed that involved placing it inside, finding a different way to light it, and other variable factors. Museum staff will take these concerns to the patron and the artist and get their feedback about options for the piece. Greg Hoff will also consult with Ken Williams about the plinth and his concerns.
- L. Yarn bombing, Susan Ison:** It was suggested that perhaps the VAC generate public interest in decorating the chain link fence around Artworks and ArtSpace. Yarn bombing involves temporarily, covering unsightly infrastructure elements with interesting yarn creations. Susan has reached out to some members of the community and is receiving positive feedback.
- A subcommittee consisting of Sara Turner, Nancy Jakobsson, Kimber Kreutzer and Maryjo Morgan will help plan the project to hopefully be installed during the summer months. They will also reach out to members of the community who would possibly be interested.
- M. South Catalyst Project, Susan Ison:** The South Catalyst project as removed 53 ash and walnut trees from their site as they prepare for construction. It was suggested that perhaps the trees could be used in an art project. The VAC will consider projects that could incorporate these trees.
- N. Lady of the Lake, Susan Ison:** After careful consideration, Maryjo moved to thank the donors for their offer but due to concerns from Risk Management, the VAC must decline the generous offer. Abbie Powers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Staff Updates

- A. SCFD, Roger Clark:** The SCFD received discouraging news that the ballot language that was initially submitted will need to be turned upside down to state in the very first line that taxes will be raised if it is approved. The committee worries this will not sound appealing to voters.
- B. Website/Mobile App Report, Kimber Kreutzer:** The website and mobile app is moving forward. Benson Park is almost entirely added and there is an optimistic hope that the entire collection be online before the end of the summer.

- C. TAAP 2D Update (artist's party?), Kimber Kreutzer:** The VAC determined that instead of having a special opening and dedication for the TAAP 2D pieces that these artists be invited to attend the annual party held for artists each year.
- D. VAC Applications Update, Susan Ison:** Due to personal conflicts, Julie Bender has resigned from the VAC. The commissioners thanked her for her service. Jade Windell's name has been put to City Council to be approved as a member of the VAC.
- E. Moving *The Gathering*, Kimber Kreutzer:** The bid for moving *The Gathering* has come in higher than expected because of the time it will take to demolish the large plinth on which it now sits. Margie Rosborough made a motion to increase the approved budget to \$8,850 to move *The Gathering*. Greg Hoff seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- F. Railroad Avenue Bridge, Susan Ison:** The bridge is being rebuilt and the proposed budget is about \$3,000. After a discussion, it was suggested that perhaps the request could be made to place something on the rails or the simply put decorative rails in or paint the railings similar to what is done with our Transformations project. Susan will find out what the standard railing design is and whether it is possible to paint them. When the call is ready to go out, we will e-mail blast it out.
- G. Taft Avenue RFP, Susan Ison:** The Taft Avenue Bridge RFP is out and we had 35 artists enter with over 180 images. The jury meeting is set for next week. From the entries, we will choose three top finalists to present the VAC with a proposal.
- H. Museum Expansion, Susan Ison:** Susan Ison showed the VAC the proposed expansion for the Loveland Museum/Gallery. The Erion Foundation donated a minimal amount to hire an architectural firm to do a conceptual design for the museum. Olson Kundig was chosen from among the responses to the RFP. While there is not currently funding to move forward with the building, the Museum Expansion is on the list to possibly get on the ballot for 2017. The VAC was impressed by the design that included keeping some of the existing building, and adding on another floor.

City Council Update

There was no council member available to report to the VAC.

Information Sharing

Roger was contacted by a concerned citizen about censorship in art and distributed a chapter from a book for the VAC to review.

Adjournment

Citing no further business Abbie Powers moved to adjourn the meeting. MaryJo Morgan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm. Length of the meeting: 2:20.