



ARTS, CULTURE, AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES

October 08, 2024 at 8:30 AM

Council Chambers at City Hall - 1123 W. Lake St. Sandpoint, Idaho

Call to Order

The meeting of the Sandpoint Arts, Culture and Historic Preservation Commission was called to order at 8:31 a.m. on Tuesday, October 8th, 2024, by chair Elle Susnis in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 1123 W. Lake St., Sandpoint Idaho.

Roll Call

PRESENT

Chair Ellen Susnis
Commissioner Barry Burgess
Commissioner Hannah Combs
Commissioner Karin Wedemeyer
Commissioner Katelyn Shook
Commissioner Rick Decker

ABSENT

Commissioner Keely Gray
Commissioner Mike Lithgow
Commissioner Kate McAlister

Meeting Minutes Approval

September 10th, 2024, Draft Minutes for Approval - **Action Item**

The September 10th, 2024, meeting minutes were approved as presented by unanimous vote of Commissioners present.

Motion made by Commissioner Wedemeyer, Seconded by Commissioner Shook.

Voting Yea: Chair Susnis, Commissioner Burgess, Commissioner Combs, Commissioner Wedemeyer, Commissioner Shook, Commissioner Decker

Financial Report & Announcements

Sandpoint Urban Renewal Agency (SURA) Financial Report

The latest financial information from the Sandpoint Urban Renewal Agency reflects the following for art fund balances:

Downtown \$191,163.81

Northern \$104,076.18

Silver Box Project: \$1,684.68 (\$18,315.22 advanced to date)

Presentation of New City of Sandpoint Website

Ms. Upton shared a presentation celebrating the new City Website, featuring its user-friendly design and integrated features.

Commission Business - Arts

Arts 1: Update on Current Silver Box Cycle and new Fall Phase

Ms. Upton shared an update on a call for art, for a six-month Fall phase of the Silver Box program. The call went out on September 26, utilizing only local channels and will close on October 10th. Approved applicants will receive a \$500 stipend.

Arts 2: Update on Paint the Plow Community Involvement Program

Ms. Upton reminded commissioners that, "Name the Plow," ballots are still available in the City Hall Lobby and Miller Paint Bucket. Ballots will be accepted through the end of October. City social media channels have shared information about the program and encourage further community involvement.

Arts 3: Update on Public Art Statues at Travers Park

Ms. Upton shared a presentation showcasing the new bronze sculptures being donated by retired veterinarians Denny and Ann Hargis for the Travers Park playground project. The new sculptures are being created by renowned artist Georgia Gerber; georgiagerber.com/public-art

The sculptures of a bear and a cougar with her cub, are designed to celebrate local heritage, specifically referencing local author Patrick McManus and his stories inspired by his childhood friend James E Russell and their adventures on Sand Creek. The sculptures will be strategically placed in the playground to ensure safety and visibility, with the bear greeting visitors at the entrance and the cougar observing from the trees.

Commissioners discussed plans for a community engagement event to name the sculptures over the winter, and a public reveal in the spring.

Arts 4: Discussion & Recommendation Regarding Public Art Totem Pole Rehabilitation – **Action Item**

Curtis Summerfield, a local youth from Sandpoint's scouting community, submitted a proposal to rehabilitate the hidden totem pole at Community Hall for his Eagle Scout Project.

Over the years, an aggressive arborvitae has obscured the piece, prompting Curtis's initiative to restore and possibly rename the totem. He wishes to acknowledge the totems history, which is linked to 1970's local carver, Delmer Wood. Summerfield presented a detailed project scope, including cleaning, and restoration, and garnered support from local artisans.

Commissioners debated the totem's placement, with recommendations leaning towards installing it indoors to preserve it and clarify its narrative, especially since the piece reflects coastal indigenous art rather than local tribes. Concerns about cultural appropriation were raised, emphasizing the need for interpretive signage that highlighted the history and artist.

Motion made by Commissioner Decker to approve the project with the caveat that the restored totem be placed inside Community Hall, exact location to be determined, with a safe but free-standing display so as not to damage the building, with interpretive signage. Motion seconded by Commissioner Burgess.

Voting Yea: Chair Susnis, Commissioner Combs, Commissioner Wedemeyer, Commissioner

Shook

Arts 5: Belwood Building Mural Application - **Action Item**

Ms. Upton introduced a mural application for the back of the Bellwood building submitted by its owner, Julie Myers. The mural will feature images from the Ross Hall collection, showcasing local landscapes, and is intended to enhance the view from Farmen Park.

After discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Combs and seconded by Commissioner Wedemeyer to recommend to City Council that the tryptic mural of Ross Hall photos on the Bellwood building be approved. Motion passed unanimously.

Voting Yea: Chair Susnis, Commissioner Burgess, Commissioner Combs, Commissioner Wedemeyer, Commissioner Shook, Commissioner Decker

Commission Business - Culture

Culture 1: Community Character Hour Radio Show - Topic: Long Bridge Episode 2

Ms. Combs provided an update on the Community Character Hour Radio Show, which started in March of this year. The show focuses on iconic landmarks in the community and their connection to local history and tourism. Recent episodes covered the first two versions of the Long Bridge, with the next episode planned for October, which will delve into the remaining bridges and potentially include spooky storytelling.

Commission Business - Historic Preservation

HP 1: Update on Historic Walking Tour Summer Program

Ms. Upton provided an update on the Historic Walking Tours that ran on the 4th Friday of the month June - September. Tours were led by local storytellers: Michael Bigley and Chris Corpus, both were praised for their contributions.

HP 2: Update on outreach for the Historic Residential 'Call for Information'

Ms. Upton gave an update on outreach for the Historic Residential Call for Information. She noted that plans to distribute door hangers about the program to targeted residences was put on pause, pending additional community messaging. Commissioner Combs connected with Standpoint Magazine to run a story about the initiative, and a press release will be created to promote it in local publications in the near future.

HP 3: Discussion on Historic Bath House-The Snack Shack -**Action Item**

Ms. Upton informed commissioners that Marsha's Snack Shack, located at City Beach, recently underwent a refresh, with new exterior paint to enhance its historic character, aligning it with nearby facilities at the beach. After discussion, an idea emerged to create interpretive signage that tells of the building's history as a bath house, as well as replacing outdated signs to better fit the structure's revived character. Next steps would include presenting the project to SURA for funding.

Commissioner Shook made a motion recommending interpretive signage for the south wall of the structure and to reinvent two Marsha's Snack Shack signs. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Decker.

Voting Yea: Chair Susnis, Commissioner Burgess, Commissioner Combs, Commissioner Wedemeyer

HP 4: Update on ISHS CEG Grant

Ms. Upton provided an update on the Idaho State Historic Society Community Enhancement Grant that the city submitted to partially fund a reprint of the recently updated "Walk Through History" brochure. Despite a strong application, the city did not receive the grant. Ms. Upton will be moving forward with a presentation to SURA for the entire reprint cost, approximately \$9100. If approved, the funds will come from the SURA Downtown District.

Commissioner's Round Table

Commissioners shared updates on various community events. The Panida Theatre and Nova Highschool will be offering a haunted house in the Little Panida Theatre, October 24-31, from 5-8pm. The haunted house will be aimed at older kids and teens. The Music Conservatory of Sandpoint will be offering an Opera Macabre, titled "Finger Food", incorporating storytelling elements related to Olivia Die, a historical figure linked to the original 1908 conservatory in Sandpoint. The opera's theme is built around Olivia's ghost. The Bonner County Historical Society, in partnership with the Music Conservatory, recently held a successful oral history event at Littel Carnagey Hall, which allowed the public to attend and listen in. There are plans to consider similar oral history initiatives in the future, particularly focusing on significant local buildings. The Innovia Foundation, in partnership with the Carousell at Sandpoint, is organizing a community fair on November 23rd. The carousel will be set up and the event will feature local nonprofits, who will also be accepting donations. The Unique Center for Athletes of all Needs (UCAN), will be hosting an auction on October 26th, which will include a costume contest, food and DJ.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 9:54 a.m.

I presided over this meeting and can confirm that these minutes, prepared by the Board Clerk and City Staff Liaison, were approved by the Arts, Culture and Historic Preservation Commission during their regular meeting held on 9/10/24.

Elle Susnis, Chair

Kami Omodt, Board Clerk