

**CITY OF REDMOND
ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION
MINUTES**

Thursday, January 14, 2021
Commissioners and Staff Participating Remotely via MS Teams
Public can listen to meeting by dialing 510-335-7371 at 6:30pm
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

“Voice the views of the community to Mayor and City Council in reference to all cultural endeavors”

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Angie Hinojos - Chair
Risa Coleman - Vice- Chair (Late)
Bobby Ives
Savita Krishnamoorthy
Kari Tai
Tifa Tomb
Lynn Trinh
Ishita Suri, Youth Advocate

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT AND EXCUSED:

Cheri Fowler

STAFF PRESENT:

Chris Weber, Cultural Arts Administrator
Lorna Velasco, Cultural Arts Coordinator
Tom Hardy, City of Redmond Public Works Planner
Kim Dietz, City of Redmond Senior Planner

VISITORS:

Tyson Simmons, Artist
Keith Stevenson, Artist

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I. CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chair Angie Hinojos called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm.

II. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Commissioner Tai to approve the December 2020 minutes with amendments
Second by Commissioner Ives
Motion carried 6-0

IV. NEW BUSINESS & GUESTS

- a. House Post at lower Bear Creek (Memo, Presentation, and Video) Tom Hardy, Kim Dietz, Tyson Simmons, and Keith Stevenson

In 2014, the City of Redmond planned a restoration project at lower Bear Creek, but it will impact a 12,000 year old archaeological site. The City of Redmond signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Army Corps of Engineers regarding the adverse effects to the archaeological site at lower Bear Creek. The MOA contains a stipulation for the City of Redmond to fund the creation of a hand-carved tribal art piece to be installed at the project site.

In 2020, the Muckleshoot master carvers, Tyson Simmons and Keith Stevenson, were contracted by the City to create the art piece. A video was shown documenting the logging, design, and carving process. Mr. Stevenson found the traditional names of the original inhabitants of the region. The carving of the names on the post of the High House informs the relationship and the respect given to high born people. The House post was carved from a single old growth cedar tree and symbolized the burial rights for noble Coast Salish people, a continuation of their reverence in life and in death.

Discussions ensued, the Commissioners expressed their appreciation of the work, deepening their understanding of the art and its historical and cultural significance. The City planners re-affirmed that there will be a public celebration after the art installation. The proposed event will be scaled to what is appropriate to the safety guidelines, and, the programming will be worked on in partnership with the Muckleshoot tribe. The Commissioners and artists asked the City planners, in addition to working with communications on creating an online narrative on the art work, to have public signage that will inform the community on the depth of the history and meaning of the High House post.

V. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Staff Report – (Memo) Chris Weber and Lorna Velasco

The City of Redmond continues to follow Washington Covid-19 guidelines. All parks and trails remain open, while facilities are closed through March 2021. The City is still offering online activities. The City maintains a Play Safe plan available at Redmond.gov/PlaySafe.

The Redmond City Council voted to approve the 2021-2022 biennial budget and around \$5.6 million budget reduction occurred for the year 2020. For more information on the reductions of services, activities, and events, they are available online at Redmond.gov/ParksRecreation.

So Bazaar and Derby Days will be canceled in 2021 due to budget restrictions, reduced staffing, and restrictions on gathering and in-person activities related to the pandemic. Redmond Lights 2021 will be re-evaluated this summer, there is potential that this year will be an installation-only event.

Redmond Lights 2020 was a month-long experience this year, (December 4-January 3). The event included 19 art and light installations at Downtown Park, local business and community participation through window decoration and light contest.

Raul Sanchez has put together a robust work plan this year that will include a poetry zine distribution for seniors, a March 25th Redmond Poet Laureate reunion, April National Poetry Month, community poetry workshop in May, and his book launch in June 2021.

Chair Hinojos shared with the Commissioners information on public events for museums and theatre released from www.governor.wa.gov.

- b. Joint Meeting Planning – Chris Weber

There will be a joint meeting between Parks and Trails Commission and Art and Culture Commission on January 28, 2021. This is an opportunity to learn more about what each commission's work plan and opportunities to collaborate.

Discussion ensued, Vice-Chair Coleman wanted information regarding maintenance of art in park areas, art as way finders, fundraising around bench memorials, inter-city project collaboration, and insight into future park developments.

c. Commission Retreat Planning – Chair Angie Hinojos, Commissioner Savita Krishnamoorthy, and Commissioner Bobby Ives

Commissioners Krishnamoorthy, Ives, and Chair Hinojos will be sending a detailed agenda for the February 25th retreat. The 2-hour retreat will cover work plan priorities for 2021, review of protocols and policies, and creation of sub-committees or advocacy groups for issues requiring greater urgency.

d. Senior Center Stakeholders Meeting Recap – (Presentation) Vice-Chair Risa Coleman

Director Hite or Deputy Director Hamilton will be joining the meetings at Art and Culture Commission to give regular updates on the Senior Center starting next month. Commissioner Tai and Vice-Chair Coleman have consistently attended the stakeholders meetings last year to ensure that discourse on the importance of a community center and a separate art center continues. Vice-Chair Coleman reiterated that Commissioners need to be present and involved in the stakeholders meetings to be aware of progress and milestones of the Senior Center build-out. There will be opportunities to broaden the stakeholder group over the coming months.

VI. COMMISSION UPDATES/DISCUSSION

a. Talk Time

Mr. Weber announced there will be changes coming in March regarding tenure and new membership for the Arts and Culture Commission. There will be membership interviews in and Commissioners are needed for the interview panel.

Commissioner Trinh asks if there will be an opportunity to get an update on her prior request to have a discussion on art calls being politically neutral. The Commissioners leading the planning retreat affirmed that there will be time allotted for this discussion.

b. Future Agenda Item Ideas

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Ives to adjourn the meeting

Second by Commissioner Tai

Motion Carried: 7-0

Meeting adjourned at 7:38 pm

UPCOMING MONTHLY MEETING

Virtual Meeting

Thursday, February 11, 2021

6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.