

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH
ARTS COMMISSION**

**February 10, 2020
6:30 PM**

**City Hall
Coho Room**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jyotsna Warikoo
Eliza Chan
Wendy Oliver
Trish Bloor
Bridget Agabra
Eric Morgret

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF PRESENT

Sherry Smith, Recording Secretary
Amy Dukes

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Julie Griffin
Cynthis Freese
Tracie Mahadeo
William Bartholomew

VISITORS PRESENT

Christy Garrard, Highlands Council
Jennifer Audut, Friends of Lake Sammamish State Park
Ellen Borison, Issaquah Figure Group

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Trish Bloor called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

OLIVER moved to approve the minutes of December 2019. WARIKOO seconded. Motion carried.

CHAIR REPORT

STAFF REPORT – Amy Dukes

Leslie Pflug and Amy Dukes presented the Creative Districts Program to City Council at the February 3 meeting. A resolution will be on the consent agenda in March. Once the resolution is adopted, the application package can be finalized to make application to the Certified Creative Districts program. The program helps cities designate hubs for creative sector jobs, tourist activities, artist housing, and more.

AGENDA ITEMS

Highlands Council Arts Programming Update – Christy Garrard, Executive Director

Cultural events have been led by volunteer leaders and are well attended, but as the area has grown there have been some challenges. One challenge is addressing facility capacity. It's difficult to

introduce different cultures to others when venue capacities are limited. To address this issue, more events have been scheduled so residents can have a variety to choose from. Christy Garrard shared information about several different upcoming events including Diwali, Henna Art, and Day of the Dead. There are two workshops coming up in the near future. One workshop is Pine Needle Basket Making on February 26 at 7 p.m. There will be an exhibition of art by Soo Hong featuring Rain drops at Blakely Hall on February 8 at 1:00 p.m. Local artist Janice King will display textiles – Rootedness Cultural Conversation and Community Art Project. In June Vikram Madan will display his art. Other events include Community Dinners with food trucks at Blakely Hall, Outdoor open mic and Food truck night in Village Green Park, parent education nights, teen flashlight egg hunt, parents night out, clothing swap, garage sales, bingo nights, 4th of July picnic, neighborhood pop up parties, Highlands Day August 29, mimosa morning, candidate forums, Veterans Day, and more.

Issaquah Figure Group – Ellen Borison

Ellen Borison shared information about the figure drawing group that used to meet at Arteast and recently relocated to Blakely Hall. The new space is working well for the group.

Friends of Lake Sammamish State Park – Jennifer Audut, Executive Director

July 4th Entertainment

Lake Sammamish State Park traditionally is closed on the 4th of July at sunset, but Friends of Lake Sammamish and the Issaquah Food Bank would like to keep the park open. They are proposing to keep the park open after sunset to enable the public to enjoy the park and watch the fireworks on Lake Sammamish until 11:00 p.m. This event will celebrate the culmination of the Food Bank's Summer Feeding program fund drive and proceeds will benefit the food bank. They would like to host a family friendly event that includes a "kids' zone" which operates from 6-8 p.m. followed by a band that plays from 8-10 p.m. Jennifer Audut provided a proposed budget and is requesting \$3,000 from the Arts Commission.

Funding request from Friends of Lake Sammamish

OLIVER moved to grant \$2,000 to Friends of Lake Sammamish for the band on July 4. Motion carried unanimously.

Film Festival Planning – Amy Dukes

Cinnebarre theater closed in January 2020. This will affect the revenue for the Municipal Art Fund and also leaves the annual film festival without a venue. *Amy Dukes* has reached out to the Regal in the Highlands to see if the film festival can be produced there. Cinnebarre's capacity was 110 and the smallest theatre in the Highlands seats about 125. Using First Stage downtown is another venue possibility. Their capacity is about 190. *Amy Dukes* will have costs to propose at the March meeting.

Visit Issaquah wants to work with the Commission to promote the Film Festival. SIFF is holding the September 12-13 dates.

Retreat Follow Up and 2020 Workplan – Amy Dukes

Amy Dukes reviewed the Arts and Culture Plan: Accomplishments 2019. She also provided a summary of what she will be working on this year, as well as how the City departments have been re-organized. Commission members reviewed the arts Strategic Directions. *Amy Dukes* will request Visit Issaquah, as well as someone from the City's Communication department attend a future Commission meeting.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting will be at 6:30 p.m., March 10, 2020, in the Coho Room.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sherry Smith
Recording Secretary