

Proxy Comment submitted by Thi Nguyen via email 09062022:

Hi Commissioners,

I'm sorry I can't attend our first meeting back from summer break. I had asked Mindy and Summer to add an agenda item about Art Walk so we could discuss it. I mainly want to express my appreciation for Kelly for filling the galleries each month, attending most (all?) of the setup/take downs of artwork, putting up flyers all around downtown, as well as hosting alongside Kayla at Artwalks. I've been at 3-4 Art Walks since we started back up in February, and Kelly is always there, before with Kayla, but now by herself. I know our group is small and we have limited resources; getting the Artwalk shifts filled for hosts, putting up flyers, all that has been difficult since February. Ideas about engaging outside volunteers to help host have not been effective. Meredith has stepped up to fill Kayla's role for Art Walk, but we have been struggling getting enough hosts each month, and now we are down another commissioner.

I propose that we reevaluate where we put our energy, limited as it is. This is something Kayla had brought up before, and I'm bringing it up again. Perhaps we put art up in the galleries, but we don't host during Artwalks. There are not that many people coming through at Artwalk, and I'm not sure if that's normal or not. Perhaps we cut putting up flyers, and try to replace it with social media/more email messaging. Where can we most effectively spend our limited energy to fulfill our mission? What do we cut from our activities because we don't have the resources to handle all of it?

This is the main discussion I hope to inspire.

On another note, the mural restoration of Draft Horse Logging is slogging through administrative bureaucracy. Basically, we have been back and forth about insurance requirements in the artist's contract. I gave up on trying to get it through last fiscal year's budget when I realized everyone at the City has real jobs, and our commission stuff is extra work for them (ie not a priority, understandably), and doing new things that have never been done before in government takes a long time. I'm still working on it though, and I've been in communication with the building owner about the progress, as well as the artist. They seem patient but also frustrated. I'm surprisingly calm and less annoyed than I expected (yay!), so I'm keeping the fire burning where I can and waiting for things to bake.

That's the scoop. Hope you had a WONDERFUL summer and look forward to seeing you all next time.

Cheers,

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