

PUBLIC ARTS COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 27, 2014
Thursday



Special Meeting
5:30 P.M.

City Hall
Cowles Council Chambers
491 E. Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska

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PUBLIC ARTS COMMITTEE
491 E. PIONEER AVENUE
HOMER, ALASKA

FEBRUARY 27, 2014
THURSDAY, 5:30 P.M.
CITY HALL COWLES COUNCIL CHAMBERS

**NOTICE OF MEETING
SPECIAL MEETING**

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA *(Only those matters on the noticed agenda may be considered, pursuant to City Council's Operating Manual, pg.9)*

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Meeting Minutes for Regular Meeting February 13, 2014 **Page 5**

4. PUBLIC HEARING

A. Request for Acceptance of the Donation of a Bronze Bust of Brother Asaiah Bates to be placed in WKFL Park located at Heath Street and Pioneer Avenue as a permanent memorial.

1. Public Comments Received **Page 11**

6. PENDING BUSINESS

A. Memorandum Re: Recommendation to City Council on Acceptance and Placement of a Donation of Artwork **Page 29**

1. Resolution 14-023 Acceptance of the Artwork and Placement in WKFL **Page 31**

2. Excerpt from City Council Minutes January 27, 2014 **Page 33**

3. Application for Donation of Artwork **Page 35**

4. Minutes of the January 9, 2014 **Page 53**

5. Memorandum from Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission to City Council re: Acceptance and Placement of Bronze Bust of Brother Asaiah **Page 59**

6. Administrative Guidelines – Accession, Gift and Donation Policies & Procedures **Page 61**

7. COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

8. COMMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE

9. ADJOURNMENT/NEXT REGULAR MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR MAY 8, 2014 AT 5:00 P.M. AND A WORKSESSION WILL BE CONDUCTED AT 4:00 P.M. PRIOR TO THE REGULAR MEETING UPSTAIRS in the City Hall Conference Room located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer Alaska.

Session 14-02 a Regular Meeting of the Public Arts Committee was called to order on February 13, 2014 at 5:00 pm by Vice Chair Michele Miller at the Homer City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: COMMITTEE MEMBERS APLIN, MILLER, PERSONS AND FELLOWS

TELEPHONIC: COMMITTEE MEMBER NEWBY

STAFF: CAREY MEYER, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR
RENEE KRAUSE, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Vice Chair Miller requested a motion to approve the agenda.

NEWBY/APLIN – MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.

There was no discussion.

The agenda was approved by consensus of the Committee.

PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no comments from the public.

RECONSIDERATION

There were no items for reconsideration.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES *(Minutes are approved during regular or special meetings only)*

A. Meeting Minutes for Special Meeting of January 9, 2014

Vice Chair Miller requested a motion to approve the minutes.

APLIN/FELLOWS – MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES.

Vice Chair Miller noted an unfinished sentence on page 1 of the minutes under Visitors, second paragraph. Ms. Aplin noted her name misspelled in the motion on the same page.

The minutes were approved as corrected by consensus of the Committee.

VISITORS

There were no visitors scheduled.

STAFF & COUNCIL/COMMITTEE REPORTS/ AND BOROUGH REPORTS

Ms. Krause provided a written report and stated that she would entertain questions on the report if any. Vice Chair Miller inquired about the recommendation to work on a mid-year budget request. Ms. Krause explained that the committee could discuss what they wanted to accomplish for the remainder of the year during a worksession before the next meeting in May which would help determine if they needed to submit a budget request since the remaining funds of \$108 did not allow for much to be done.

Chair Miller also confirmed that they had the review of the Strategic Plan on their agenda tonight.

Ms. Newby lost connection at 5:15 p.m.

Ms. Krause confirmed that the signs were awarded and there was a minor hiccup in the startup with the signs being done by Dan Coe but that was straightened out and both artists should be starting production on the signs shortly. Installation is expected to be accomplished by the end of May.

B. Homer Arts and Culture Alliance Meeting Report

Ms. Persons reported that the group HACA has been involved as a participant in the PARC, which stands for Parks Arts Recreation and Culture group which is working on the Needs Assessment. These meetings are not open to the public but are a working group meeting which will bring the work product to the various groups for input. The Parks and Recreation Commission will be addressing the public aspect or component of the Needs Assessment.

Ms. Newby connected back to the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING

There were no items for public hearing.

PENDING BUSINESS

A. Art for the Spit Trail – 1% for Art and Interpretive Signage

Ms. Aplin stated she requested this on the agenda to get some input from the committee. She listed the members of the committee that have participated so far on the interpretative signage on the Spit Trail. Some ideas mentioned were to use Haiku, First Voices, and a giant tide gauge that unveils a poem at different levels of the tide; how select or solicit for a call for artists or poetry instead of the formal RFP, not limit creativity, but there is a need to get something on the ground. Some members of the committee were questioning the interpretive text that teaches or provides information. She wanted to get the input from Carey Meyer and the Public Arts Committee regarding the content and direction that she should take. The project is not a 1% for Art Project it is actually outside of the purview of the committee; the budget is \$40,000.

Mr. Meyer related the outcome of the Beluga Slough Trail signage and how it was developed to provide an idea of what they were driving for on the Spit Trail. Ms. Aplin conveyed what she envisioned the information portion then a small poem related to the information on the sign. They are looking at 8-9 signs one at the End of the Road Park, the Deep Water Dock, the intersection of the Spit Road and Freightdock Road, Fishdock Overlook plus 4 additional locations around the harbor.

Mr. Meyer also noted that they had re-advertised for the 1% for Art in the amount of \$11,000 since they did not get any submittals he was granted permission by the City Manager to contact Mooserun Metalsmiths to see what it would take to encourage them to create the sculpture that was initially proposed. This was done on the further information that one of the main reasons Mooserun declined the award was the amount of the award was not enough. They needed more money. Mr. Meyer stated that if they wanted a few thousand dollars more he could probably swing that but if the amount was greater than it was not happening. Since all the requirements in the Procurement Policy have been followed they are at liberty to hire someone to construct or design and art piece for the location if the second attempt to get the Mooserun sculpture.

Vice Chair Miller asked what they were looking for from this committee if it wasn't really part of their responsibility. Ms. Aplin stated she was looking for some guidance. Mr. Meyer said he felt uncomfortable looking at it strictly from the engineering perspective. He further noted that the funding is coming from the Cruise Ship Head Tax funding.

The committee was appreciative of being included and one suggestion was to alternate the information signs with artistic poetic signage. The committee was really supportive of the incorporation of poetry and art into the information signs. The idea can incorporate and tie all the elements together.

Mr. Meyer questioned how you could write that into the RFP to include all those aspects plus still leave it open to any additional ideas that may be submitted.

It was questioned if the public process was really necessary if they had the resources already. Mr. Meyer stated that they really did not have to go public with a RFP. They could just establish guidelines on requesting submissions of poetry along the themes. The committee agreed that would be fun and include the whole community.

Ms. Aplin thanked the committee for their assistance and input.

Mr. Meyer commented that it provides some similarity with poetry up at Baycrest and poetry at Beluga Slough then Poetry out on the Spit.

B. Establishing a Date for A Public Hearing

Ms. Krause noted that by consensus that February 27, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers is the best available. Ms. Aplin will not be able to attend. Ms. Newby can attend but we need to have three members present just in case you lose connection. There was a brief discussion on the urgency to have the meeting this month. Ms. Fellows will be able to notify staff if she will be unable to attend this meeting.

There was no further discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Memorandum to Advisory Bodies from the City Clerk Re: Meeting Schedules

Ms. Krause explained the purpose of the memorandum and how it affects this committee regarding the Special meetings. It was noted that they agreed to have quarterly meetings but then there are things that come up so they have been having quite a few special meetings. Discussion ensued on the need to meet more than the scheduled quarterly meetings especially since they had no budgets. It was noted that they would have to meet to form the various selection committees and that might need a special meeting if they cannot have a timely meeting to establish that selection committee.

Chair Newby argued the need for flexibility to have Special meetings when the need comes up such as the various projects.

Discussion ensued regarding the necessity of having more than the regularly scheduled quarterly committee meetings; they have plenty of notice for projects and they can conduct all required committee work at a regular meeting. Since they really do not have a budget there was no justification on having Special Meetings. It was recommended not to have as many special meetings as they have been.

NEWBY/MILLER - MOVED TO RECOMMEND CITY COUNCIL ALLOW THE PUBLIC ARTS COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT SPECIAL MEETINGS ON AN AS NEEDED BASIS WITHOUT THE APPROVAL OF COUNCIL.

There was a brief discussion regarding the need to schedule meetings when the need arises without having to wait the time it would take to have Council approve the special meeting. A perfect example was the Public Hearing for the Art Donation. The Committee felt that they did not abuse the ability to have Special Meetings and only did so as needed.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

B. Memorandum Reviewing the 2014 Strategic Plan – What Next for Action!

Vice Chair Miller stated that they will address this item at the May regular meeting.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

A. Citizens Academy Advertisement

Ms. Krause commented that this was open to public and if they did not get a few more enrollees then it will be postponed until a later date. She stated that there were 15-20 spots. A comment from committee members noted they may get more interest if it wasn't so long.

There were no further comments.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

Kathy Hill, city resident, stated she was at the meeting tonight to read a statement that was printed in the Homer News, February 6, 2014 and written by Lee Post at the request of Leo Vait. She will be out of town on February 27, 2014 and Ms. Krause stated she should attend tonight, it will be included in the packet of information for the Public Hearing.

"Something is as upside down as the weather. We have somebody funding one of the state's best sculptors to create a sculpture of Asaiah Bates who was one of Homer's most famous and beloved residents in his life. We have a public park that Asaiah donated the land for in the middle of town. We are a town that values the arts and is well known for the quality and quantity of art that comes out of it. Asaiah himself was known to pose for local artists. And we have individuals wishing to stop the creation or display of this public sculpture because? They seem to be saying that Asaiah wouldn't want to be portrayed as a sculpture. They seem to be saying that he wouldn't want this art in the parkland he donated to the public. Someone is saying this might make him a religious figure and thus shouldn't be on public land. That same someone seems to be saying, as a libertarian, that art shouldn't be put in public places.

First, I won't pretend to have a direct line to what Asaiah might or might not have said if he were alive. That's too close to what many religions do with iconic dead people. I can't imagine Brother Asaiah saying he wanted to be depicted as a statue in a local park. But then I can't imagine Abraham Lincoln or Martin Luther King or Nelson Mandela saying that either. They are now all subjects of great public sculptures. Portrait art is not for the dead. They gave up the right to object when they left. It is for the living and for future generations. It is a way to honor and remember great people and an image of the individual can do that way more effectively than a memorial fund.

Second, shouldn't a libertarian be thrilled that public tax money isn't being used to fund this and even better that it could go onto land that wasn't paid for by public tax funds but was a private donation? Shouldn't they be all about individuals supporting and creating art that is for the public in public places without having the government (or anyone else) put constrictive restrictions on it?

Third, Brother Asaiah was not exactly a private recluse. He wrote many letters to the editor of this paper than probably anyone. He spoke at more council meetings than anyone else ever has. He was kind and gentle and calming and I think we can all agree that the last thing he would have wanted was to have his friends arguing about what he would have said. If he truly felt strongly about this when he was alive, he certainly had opportunities to say something.

What's left is out memories of a great man, and an opportunity to leave something the next generation can appreciate."

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

Mr. Meyer commented on the need for a Selection Committee for the Harbormasters office. There was a brief discussion on waiting until the May regular meeting agenda. Ms. Aplin commented that this was another example of the ability to schedule a special meeting. Mr. Meyer went on to describe a submittal from the Bishop's Beach project. He will try to have a draft Request for Proposal ready for the May meeting. He then spoke about the Public Safety Building project that will offer another opportunity. He would expect to have that project at a point by the end of summer. Mr. Carey explained it would be separate buildings but one project.

Vice Chair Miller noted that a Selection Committee can be discussed at the August or November regular meeting.

COMMENTS OF THE COUNCILMEMBER *(If one is assigned)*

No councilmembers were present.

COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR

Chair Newby asked if establishing a Selection Committee could be added to the agenda for the Special Meeting on February 27, 2014. Vice Chair Miller stressed her desire to keep the agenda for that meeting strictly focused on the subject.

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE

Ms. Person (Groning) requested that she be noted by her married name now.

There were no other comments from committee members.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee Vice Chair Miller adjourned the meeting at 6:15 p.m. **A SPECIAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY FEBRUARY 27, 2014 AT 5:30 P.M. TO CONDUCT A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE DONATION OF ART TO THE CITY. A WORKSESSION IS SCHEDULED FOR 4:00 P.M. PRIOR TO THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING WHICH IS SCHEDULED FOR MAY 8, 2014 AT 5:00 P.M. at City Hall Conference Room Upstairs, 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.**

Renee Krause, CMC, Deputy City Clerk I

Approved: _____

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Public notice is hereby given that the City of Homer will hold a public hearing by the Public Arts Committee on Thursday, February 27, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. at Cowles Council Chambers, Homer City Hall, 491 East Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska on the following matter:

A Request for Acceptance of the Donation of a Bronze Bust of Brother Asaiah Bates to be placed in WKFL Park located at Heath Street and Pioneer Avenue as a permanent memorial.

Anyone wishing to present testimony concerning these matters may do so at the meeting or by submitting a written statement to the Public Arts Committee, 491 East Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska 99603, or via email to rkrause@ci.homer.ak.us by 4:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting.

The complete proposal is available for review at the City of Homer City Clerk's Office located at Homer City Hall. For additional information, please contact Renee Krause at the City Clerk's Office, 235-3130.

PLEASE PUBLISH ONCE ACCOUNT 100.0101.5227



David M. Derry

Reply address:



PO Box 2882

Kenai, AK 99611

(907) 260-8434



PO Box 6407

Halibut Cove, AK 99603

(907) 296-2233

derry@alaska.com

February 11, 2014

Public Arts Committee
City of Homer
491 E. Pioneer Ave.
Homer, AK 99603

Via email: clerk@cityofhomer-ak.gov

RE: Placement, statute of Brother Asiah Bates

Dear Commissioners:

Having read all of the discussion and public comments about the placement of Asiah's statue, I suggest it be placed in the City Council Chamber.

Asiah of course served on the City Council, and actively followed city events. He frequently attended council meetings, especially when "hot" issues were on the agenda. He was consistently that calming element in heated debate, and always appreciated the citizens serving as council members or committee members. I always remember his comments at one council meeting when I was on the Council. After a really heated debate, with lots of public comment, on some issue (which now doesn't matter), Asiah sat down and was recognized. He thanked us for serving on the Council, acknowledged our "wisdom" and in his soothing manner brought a peace to the forum. I so remember taking a breath, and feeling like some of the pressure was relieved.

So I think the most appropriate place for a remembrance to Asiah, and what he meant to Homer is right in the heart of the democratic process, the Council Chambers. Hopefully for those council members that remember him, they can look over at that bust, take a breath, and feel a little peace in their service.

Thank you to all of you for agreeing to serve as Commissioners. Regardless of your decision as a body, I will understand your wisdom.

Best Regards,

Dave Derry

Dear citizens of Homer,

Thanks to Michael Armstrong and "The Homer News" for his outstanding news article titled "Homer Debates: Where To Place Brother Asaiah's Statue", posted January 26th, 2014. It was this important article, along with other communications, that prompted me to write this letter. I would like to thank everyone who has been thinking about the spirit of Asaiah represented by a real live statue to remind us of those great qualities which Brother Asaiah would claim are there, though sometimes dormant, in each one of us.

I was and am still a close friend of the late Brother Asaiah Bates since 1961, as well as a past member of the W.K.F.L (Wisdom, Knowledge, Faith, Love) movement of which Brother Asaiah was a member and leading supporter.

I have consigned a large bronze statue of Brother Asaiah, by the Homer artist and sculptor Leo Vait, as a donation to the city of Homer. I have done this to emphasize that his spirit and ideals are not dead, but live on.

Asaiah's dead physical body has been well hidden and guarded. My gratitude goes out to those responsible for honoring Asaiah's wish that his physical body should return to the soil of Mother Earth and left unmarked. Having closely known Brother Asaiah, I feel that he would wish that his living spirit should remain vibrant and breathing and carried forth into the life of modern day Homer and all those who carry that spirit out into the larger world. Having a sculpture of Asaiah would remind us of Asaiah's thoughts, words, and actions through a living memento of his great spirit.

Let me ask some rhetorical questions: *Would those of you who knew Asaiah agree that he was both an illuminated person as well as an illuminator to others? Was he not like a lighthouse which guides sailors through darkness and storms towards a safe harbor of the light*

Would you place the lighthouse, in a museum or mausoleum, or would you place the source of light, hope, and community pride in a place where all can see and be nurtured and inspired?

If it were up to me - as to where the statue of Asaiah should be placed-I would recommend the following:

1. W.K.F.L. Park, *the park that Asaiah graciously donated to the city of Homer , or-*
2. On the plateau above Homer's entrance where there is a sign stating "Homer: The Halibut Capitol of The World" *(This is the top-of-the-hill spot where newcomers first catch that awesome glance of our "Cosmic Hamlet by the Sea" , the term coined by Brother Asaiah.)*

Bother Asaiah ignited that sense that Homer is OUR community, and whatever our

thoughts were about it, we were free to express them, as long as we listened respectfully to other views. As I have travelled over Alaskan roads, speaking with whoever crossed my path, I noticed that Homer travelers, unlike travelers from other communities, are proud of being from Homer.

So, in the spirit of Brother Asaiah, I invite Homerites to share your views as to where Asaiah's statue should be placed. I thank the former mayors of Homer, both Jack Cushing and James Hornaday, for supporting placement at W.K.F.L. Park. Another close friend of Asaiah's, Ken Landfield, suggests a wider community discussion as to where it should be placed, and in the spirit of Brother Asaiah, I support that also.

Having been inspired by Asaiah's spirit and wisdom :
"Ask not what Brother Asaiah would do for you, but rather what we should do for Brother Asaiah?"

Where shall we keep Asaiah's living statue which would embody his message and example amongst us for both now and future generations? For we are the citizens of the "Cosmic Hamlet By The Sea" and if we truly know Brother Asaiah we would know that he did not think or act in the conventional way, but with an open and loving heart, and a cosmic consciousness whose end has no limits, especially if we carry the torch of his memory forward.

I thank and acknowledge the Homer City Council, the Public Arts Committee, and the Parks and Recreation Commission for voting and approving the submitted proposal for the statue of Asaiah Bates. as the people discuss about where. I also thank the following journalists for their articles about Asaiah's statue: Martha Wagele for her article titled "Asaiah's Thoughtfulness Lives On, posted January 29, 2014 and Lee Post's article titled "A Sculpture of Asaiah Fitting", posted on February 6th, 2014 - *this is a very "well said" piece, in my opinion.* I also thank both Michael Kennedy and Brad Hughes for expressing their views/opinions in the Armstrong article noted at the beginning of this letter.

For those of you who did not have the privilege of knowing Asaiah in person, I recommend reading his biography, "Brother Asaiah" from the library or bookstores, as remembered by MarthaEllen Anderson and many, many other Homerites who knew him when he walked with us in the flesh in our "Cosmic Hamlet by the Sea". Here you will catch a great sense of the being that Brother Asaiah was and the spirit that he still is.

With love for all,

John N. Nazarian

Renee Krause

From: Jo Johnson
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2014 8:31 AM
To: Renee Krause
Subject: FW: Bates statue

-----Original Message-----

From: Scott Smith [<mailto:gregoryscottsmith50@icloud.com>]
Sent: Monday, February 17, 2014 2:53 PM
To: Department Clerk
Subject: Bates statue

Dear Mayor Wythe,

I am writing to voice my opinion of the potential erection of the proposed Bates Bust. I am vehemently opposed to it and ask that you do what you can to prevent this from happening. I have many reasons for this which need not be expressed, but if you would like, I can write them.

Thank you for your service as mayor. I do pray for you and believe you are there for a time such as this.

Scott Smith
President
YWAM Arctic Mercy/Homer, Alaska

Renee Krause

From: Jo Johnson
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2014 8:29 AM
To: Renee Krause
Subject: FW: A. Bates statue

From: Gee Denton [<mailto:geezmail7@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, February 17, 2014 4:57 PM
To: Department Clerk
Subject: A. Bates statue

Dear Mayor Wythe,

I am contacting you to voice my opinion against the erection of a statue of Asaiah Bates. I am strongly opposed to this and ask that you do everything in your power to prevent this from being accomplished.

The history of the Barefooters and A. Bates is not a spirit that should reside over our town of Homer or anywhere else truly. It greatly troubles my heart to ponder on the truth of the group and I do not identify with their history. If it is researched out it can be verified it is not one of love.

Sincerely and gratefully yours,
Gee Denton

Renee Krause

From: Jo Johnson
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2014 8:29 AM
To: Renee Krause
Subject: FW: Asaiah Bates Monument

From: Homer A/G [<mailto:homerag@acsalaska.net>]
Sent: Monday, February 17, 2014 5:11 PM
To: Department Clerk
Subject: Asaiah Bates Monument

Dear Mayor Wythe,

I am contacting you to voice my opinion against the erection of a statue of Asaiah Bates. I am strongly opposed to this and ask that you do everything in your power to prevent this from being accomplished. If statue is erected, I would like to have the right to erect a large cross in the same area. There are a lot of Christians in our community who have done some amazing things to benefit the people of Homer for many years. I think to give them equal rights in erecting what's important to them would be fitting.

Sincerely,

Reverend Greg Newell
Senior Pastor
Homer Assembly of God

Renee Krause

From: Jo Johnson
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2014 8:27 AM
To: Renee Krause
Subject: FW: Dear Mayor Wythe and Homer Council Members,

From: SARA LEE FISHER [<mailto:fisher@xyz.net>]
Sent: Monday, February 17, 2014 9:53 PM
To: Department Clerk
Subject: Dear Mayor Wythe and Homer Council Members,

I wish to voice opposition to the placement of the Asaiah Bates statue in WKFL park, the entrance to the city of Homer, or any other location that would cause him to be somehow considered either a "patron saint" of Homer or otherwise elevate him as someone to be followed and emulated. Not everyone feels thus about him or about WKFL and what it represents and was historically. For someone who wanted to be buried in a cardboard box and put in an unmarked grave, I honestly think he would cringe at the thought of a statue representing him being placed somewhere to be looked up to and admired. If you really look up to him, you will honor his wishes to fade away.

Sincerely,
Sara Fisher
(Homer resident for 36 years)

Renee Krause

From: Jo Johnson
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2014 8:28 AM
To: Renee Krause
Subject: FW: Asaiah Bates Statue

From: David Taylor [<mailto:dpjtaylor1@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2014 7:37 AM
To: Department Clerk
Subject: re: Asaiah Bates Statue

Dear Mayor Wythe:

I am contacting you to voice my opinion against the erection of a statue of Asaiah Bates. I strongly oppose this and ask that you do everything in your power to prevent this from happening. Bates and his group were heavily influenced by the teachings of the cultic Messianic figure, Krishna Venta, as were Charles Manson and Jim Jones.

Thank you,

David Taylor
Christian Community Church
<http://www.ccchomerak.org/>
<http://ccchomerak.blogspot.com/>

Renee Krause

From: Jo Johnson
Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2014 4:43 PM
To: Renee Krause
Subject: FW: brother Asaiah statue compromise

Jo Johnson, MMC
City Clerk

City of Homer
491 E. Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603
907~235~3130
jjohnson@ci.homer.ak.us

PUBLIC RECORDS LAW DISCLOSURE:

Most e-mails from or to this address will be available for public inspection under Alaska public records law.

From: Rose Grech [<mailto:mrosegrech@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2014 4:09 PM
To: Department Clerk
Subject: brother Asaiah statue compromise

Dear City Council Members,

I've lived in Homer for two years and have heard about Brother Asaiah but I must admit I do not know a whole lot about him except what I hear and read recently in the Homer News. I also do not attend the city council meetings, but I do follow the updates from KBBI.

Regarding the proposed statue of Brother Asaiah and all the different arguments for and against it, I would like to offer a compromise. Understanding the comment that he may not have wanted a statue of himself, what about a statue that embodies what he symbolizes? Alongside it could be a sign describing what this is all about. From [this article](#), it sounds like he coined the term "Cosmic Hamlet by the Sea", which I have heard many times but did not know where it came from. Also sounds like he helped build a unique sense of community here.

It could be a creative visual that would improve our Pioneer Avenue image, an interesting/creative symbol to attract residents and visitors to see and photograph, while preserving a piece of Homer's history for young and new residents to know and understand what makes Homer such a special place we call home.

Thank you for all your time and energy; I realize you receive a lot of comments/inputs and hope decisions can be made and we can move forward on to new business items.

Renee Krause

From: Jo Johnson
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2014 8:09 AM
To: Renee Krause
Subject: FW: Statue of Asaiah Bates

From: Jerry and Martina Uhlig [<mailto:insomeforest@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2014 10:18 PM
To: Department Clerk
Subject: Statue of Asaiah Bates

Dear Mayor Wythe,

I am strongly against the erection of a statue of Asaiah Bates. Thank you for taking my opinion into consideration.

May you be blessed richly,

Jerry Uhlig
Homer resident
insomeforest@yahoo.com

February 20, 2014

Dear Public Arts Committee,

The Homer Public Library has been approached about the possibility of placing the bust of Asaiah Bates on Library grounds. Because I will be out of town on February 27 for the public hearing, I thought it best to submit to you the Library's current position regarding the matter.

The Homer Public Library is a City of Homer facility. If the community, the Public Arts Committee, and the City decide that they want the bust displayed on Library grounds, the Library has no objection. Our only stipulations are that the bust be placed outside, as space within the building is limited, and that it not be placed in existing gardens or dedicated areas, such as the Margaret Pate Garden.

The Library also has no objection if a location other than the Library is deemed more suitable for the bust.

I should point out that the Library Advisory Board has *not* had an opportunity to offer their opinion on the matter. Their next meeting is Tuesday March 4 at 5 p.m. If the need to make a decision is not urgent, I would prefer to confer with the Library Advisory Board before submitting a final position for the Library.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ann Dixon, Director
Homer Public Library
435-3151
adixon@ci.homer.ak.us

From: Will Files <will@wfiles.US>
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2014 11:28 AM
To: Renee Krause; Angie Newby
Subject: Arts Commission

THIS IS WRITTEN IN RESPONSE to the Feb 12 Homer News "Point of View" by Billy Choate. Mr.Choate describes a bad experience years ago with people connected to the "Fountain of the World". (whose logo was Wisdom, Knowledge, Faith and Love, WKFL.)

Perhaps seeking Brother Asaiah's Seek-the-truth-in love spirit can guide you in deciding where it should be placed.

As a holocaust survivor, Corrie ten Boon reminded us that , "Just because a mouse is in the cookie jar does not mean he is a cookie."

I am sad and sorry to hear your story about abuse perpetuated upon you as a youth. Though Brother Asaiah had limited power over what others did, I am certain he would be first in line to support you in your healing. He knew his own need to heal from the Second World War, and he would support your healing too. It could well be that your sharing with Brother Asaiah, way back then, was the reason he fought so intensely and untiringly for years for the "Here's Looking at You" school program on sexual, alcohol and drug abuse, a program to help each young kid to understand and protect their own bodies and souls.

Krishna Venta's daughter told me that the good which Brother Asaiah did in Homer was his own creation, and credit (or blame) should not be given to Krishna Venta or the Fountain. Brother Asaiah began his private work in Homer AFTER the Fountain was no more. It is interesting, especially in light of your Point of View, that Bro's symbol was "Aum Mani Padme Hum" which means a pure lotus flower, untainted by the world, growing through muddy waters into the light. Let's look now at the light, the pure spirit.

"The Kingdom of God is within you," was one of Brother's favorite Biblical quotes. He found this rich treasure in his own soul, originally through words that he learned in the Fountain community, long before he moved to Homer , started his own cleaning business here and began his life work in Homer. In Homer, he was equally excited to find spiritual wisdoms in every Homer church and every individual that crossed his path, and he shared those delightful discoveries with the whole community through hundreds of 'Letters to the Editor.'

Annie Whitney observed that, "Asaiah gave such complete attention to us that we were able to see ourselves as community. Not every community has a catalyst to help them see themselves as Brother did for us."

It is in the hope of reviving that loving community spirit that this statue gift has been given. Let us be gracious receivers of the gift's intent, and shine, untainted through the muddy waters of the past, into a healed and loving "Cosmic Hamlet by the Sea"

"Aum Mani Padme Hum." Martha Ellen Anderson



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Office of the City Clerk

491 East Pioneer Avenue
Homer, Alaska 99603

clerk@cityofhomer-ak.gov

(p) 907-235-3130

(f) 907-235-3143

Memorandum

TO: PUBLIC ARTS COMMITTEE

FROM: RENEE KRAUSE, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

DATE: FEBRUARY 19, 2014

SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATION TO CITY COUNCIL ON ACCEPTANCE OF A DONATION TO THE MUNICIPAL ART COLLECTION AND PLACEMENT OF SAID ARTWORK

BACKGROUND

The Public Arts Committee (Committee) held a special meeting on January 9, 2014 to review and approve the application for donation of a sculpture. The Committee withheld final approval on placement and acceptance into the City of Homer Municipal Art Collection based on the strong public request/opinion to place it in a more suitable location and/or not at all. The Committee recommended that City Council conduct a Public Hearing to allow more public input. The Committee also referred it to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission (PRC) for recommendation/approval on placement in a city park.

On January 16, 2014 the PRC supported the Committee's recommendation for City Council to hold a Public Hearing on the placement of the statue.

At the January 27, 2014 City Council postponed the Resolution 14-023 until the March 24, 2014 meeting and remanded it back to the Public Arts Committee to hold a Public Hearing on the Acceptance and Placement of the Donation of a Bronze bust of Brother Asaiah Bates.

Following is the resolution 14-023 as written, the excerpt of the city council minutes regarding the resolution, the completed application for donating works of art to the city including all pertinent back up materials and photos, the Committee's minutes of the January 9, 2014 special meeting that includes public comments; the memorandum from the PRC and the excerpt from the Administrative Guidelines regarding Accession, Donations and Gifts.

RECOMMENDATION

Review all submitted comments and materials. The Committee is tasked to make a recommendation based on the established guidelines and policies for accepting donations of work into the City Municipal Art Collection and the most suitable and appropriate location for such donation.

1 **CITY OF HOMER**
2 **HOMER, ALASKA**

3 City Clerk/
4 Public Arts Committee

5 **RESOLUTION 14-023**

6
7 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA,
8 APPROVING AND ACCEPTING THE DONATION OF A LIFE
9 SIZE BRONZE BUST OF BROTHER ASIAH BATES BY AN
10 ANONYMOUS DONOR AND CREATED BY HOMER ARTIST
11 LEO VAIT FOR PERMANENT PLACEMENT IN WKFL PARK.
12

13 WHEREAS, The City of Homer Municipal Art Collection has few pieces that
14 commemorate the contributions of prominent citizens; and
15

16 WHEREAS, Brother Asaiah was widely known for his calm, quiet manner; equal and
17 respectful treatment of all persons; served as a member of City Council; was a regular
18 contributor to the local newspapers and attended many city and public meetings on
19 numerous issues and concerns; and
20

21 WHEREAS, The donor wishes to remember all that Brother Asaiah gave to the
22 community in the form of a life size bust created out of bronze and commissioned local artist
23 Leo Vait who personally knew Brother Asaiah and having completed the required application
24 for donation; and
25

26 WHEREAS, The Public Arts Committee has reviewed the requests for donation to the
27 City of Homer and recommended that the City Council approve and accept the donation and
28 incorporate it into the Municipal Art Collection.
29

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Homer, Alaska, hereby
31 approves and accepts the life size bronze bust of Brother Asaiah from an anonymous donor
32 and created by Homer artist Leo Vait and incorporates it into the City's artwork collection.
33

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the City Council authorizes permanent placement of the
35 sculpture on top of the large rock in WKFL Park on Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska, for the
36 enjoyment of all residents and visitors.
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PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE HOMER CITY COUNCIL this 27th day of January, 2014.

CITY OF HOMER

MARY E WYTHER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

JO JOHNSON, MMC, CITY CLERK
Fiscal Note: N/A

Motion carried.

- B. **Resolution 14-023**, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska, Approving and Accepting the Donation of a Life-Size Bronze Bust of Brother Asaiah Bates by an Anonymous Donor and Created by Homer Artist Leo Vait for Permanent Placement in WKFL Park. City Clerk/Public Arts Committee.

Memorandum 14-016 from Public Arts Committee as backup.

Memorandum 14-018 from Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission as backup.

Mayor Wythe called for a motion for the adoption of Resolution 14-023 by reading of title only.

ZAK/ROBERTS - SO MOVED.

LEWIS/ROBERTS - MOVED TO POSTPONE AND REFER TO THE PUBLIC ARTS COMMITTEE TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETINGS AND COME BACK TO COUNCIL WITH A CONSENSUS AS TO WHAT SHOULD BE DONE WITH THE STATUE AND WHERE IT SHOULD BE PLACED.

The next Public Arts Committee meeting is February 13.

Artist Leo Vait has a spot for casting in early March. He can still complete the statue if a decision is made by May.

Councilmember Burgess voiced his apprehension about placing a statue of a person with a religious association in a public place. As a secular organization we are treading on thin water. The feedback he received was that Brother Asaiah's philosophy was better immortalized than he was in human. We need to heed the public's input.

LEWIS/ROBERTS - MOVED TO BRING THE RESOLUTION BACK TO THE SECOND MEETING IN MARCH (MARCH 24) WITH A RECOMMENDED CONSENSUS OF WHERE THIS SHOULD BE PLACED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE: (amendment) YES. ZAK, VAN DYKE, LEWIS, ROBERTS

VOTE: NO. BURGESS

Motion carried.

VOTE: (postponement) YES. LEWIS, ZAK, ROBERTS, VAN DYKE

VOTE: NO. BURGESS

Motion carried.



MUNICIPAL ART COLLECTION GIFT PROPOSAL APPLICATION

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY AND MAKE YOUR RESPONSES COMPLETE AND THOROUGH.

DATE 16 December 2013
CONTACT PERSON Will Files and Martha Ellen TITLE for John Nazarian
ORGANIZATION IF APPLICABLE _____
ADDRESS 59835 Tern Ct CITY Homer STATE AK ZIP 99603
PHONE 907 299-2990 FAX _____ CELL _____
EMAIL will@wfiles.us

TELL US WHY YOU WISH TO DONATE THIS ARTWORK TO THE CITY OF HOMER? Brother Asaiah left his body in the year 2000. Newcomers have not experienced his presence first hand, and sometimes even we sourdoughs forget. I give this statue to renew his loving spirit. Our world is as challenged today as Brother Asaiah's prophetic vision observed years ago. My wish is that this great work of art, depicting his pain, peace, joy and transcendent love, can rekindle that loving spirit which Brother gave to us in our "Cosmic Hamlet By The Sea". What better place than the WKFL Park.

PROPOSED ARTWORK

TITLE OF ARTWORK Brother Asaiah
ARTIST(S) NAME Leo Vait
YEAR COMPLETED 2014 DIMENSIONS approximately 3 feet high
MATERIALS USED TO CREATE ARTWORK bronze

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED PIECE--

A life size bronze bust of Brother Asaiah, bound by an iron rod into the existing large rock in front of the present gazebo.

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ARTWORK - TELL US THE STORY BEHIND THE PIECE OR SIGNIFICANCE -

Brother Asaiah captured the spirit of our times, respecting all religious and political views. He was a catalyst for peace and reconciliation at City Council meetings, and throughout our city. John Nazarian, the donor of this bronze bust, saw Brother Asaiah transmute his own anger and pain, devoting his life to love and service in Homer. John wants to rekindle the life and spirit of this beloved Homerite.

IS THE PROPOSED PIECE ONE OF A KIND? yes IS THE PIECE PART OF A SERIES, LIMITED OR OTHERWISE? No
IF SO, AN EDITION OF HOW MANY? _____ IS THE PIECE COMPLETED? No IF NOT WHEN IS THE
EXPECTED COMPLETION DATE? May 2014
WHAT IS THE CURRENT CONDITION OF THE PIECE? It is currently in maquette form, waiting for a go ahead
decision from the City of Homer, the Public Arts Commission, and the Parks and Rec Commission.

PROPOSED SITE OR LOCATION

DO YOU HAVE A SITE(S) IN MIND FOR THE PLACEMENT OF THE ARTWORK? IF SO WHERE? _____
WKFL Park in the City of Homer - on top of the ROCK in the park

IS THIS A CITY OWNED PROPERTY IF NOT WHO OWNS THE PROPERTY? _____
City owned

WHAT IS THE RATIONALE FOR SELECTING THIS/THESE LOCATION(S)? _____
Brother Asaiah donated the WKFL Park to the City of Homer, and had the large rock placed there.

ARE YOU AWARE OF ANY PERMITS OR PERMISSIONS THAT MAY BE REQUIRED? _____
No permit required, but will seek support of City of Homer and the Public Arts Commission

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

DESCRIBE HOW THE ARTWORK IS CONSTRUCTED OR MADE. PLEASE INCLUDE ANY DOCUMENTATION AT THE END OF
THIS APPLICATION. In his Homer studio, Leo Vait will sculpt Asaiah life-size from the waist up, using
plasticine clay. It will then be molded and processed for a bronze pour.

HOW IS THE ARTWORK TO BE PROPERLY INSTALLED? _____
It will be installed on the "WKFL rock" using stainless steel bolts designed for use in concrete.

DOES THE PIECE REQUIRE ELECTRICITY, PLUMBING OR OTHER UTILITY HOOKUPS? _____
Would like to install a spot light to illuminate the sculpture, mounted on the gazebo (solar??).

WHO WILL BE INSTALLING THE ARTWORK? _____
Leo Vait and friends

WHAT IS THE EXPECTED LIFETIME AND STAYING POWER OF THE MATERIALS USED IN CREATING THE PIECE? _____
2,000 years

WHAT MAINTENANCE IS REQUIRED AND HOW OFTEN? _____
None

PLEASE IDENTIFY ANY SPECIFIC MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES AND OR EQUIPMENT AND THE ASSOCIATED COSTS: _____
N/A

WHAT PRECAUTIONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO GUARD AGAINST VANDALISM IF ANY? _____
Bronze is extremely durable! Illumination would guard against vandalism (the spotlight).

WHAT STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO ASSURE THIS PIECE WILL NOT PRESENT A SAFETY HAZARD? _____
Concrete and a bolting system will secure the sculpture permanently.

BUDGET

PROJECT MANAGEMENT FEES	\$ 0	INSURANCE	\$ 0
ARTIST'S FEES	\$ 8,000	UTILITY HOOKUP	\$ 0
PURCHASE PRICE	\$ 6,500	DELIVERY	\$ 1,000
PERMITS	\$ 0	INSTALLATION	\$ 0
STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING	\$ 0	SIGNAGE	\$ 500
SITE PREPARATION	\$ 1,000	RECOGNITION	\$
OTHER COSTS NOT LISTED	\$ 1,500	DESCRIPTION	spot light, etc
DATE PIECE WAS LAST APPRAISED?	N/A		

WHAT IS THE VALUE OF THE PIECE OR ESTIMATED MARKET VALUE IF NO APPRAISAL WAS DONE? \$18,500

TIMELINE

WHAT IS THE TIMELINE FOR THE COMPLETION OR INSTALLATION OF THE PIECE? IDENTIFY THE DIFFERENT STAGES AND
DATE GOALS TO PREPARE THE PIECE FOR DONATION
maquette preparation - December 1, 2013
Gift Proposal Application - December 15, 2013; Public Arts Commission - January 9, 2014
Parks and Rec Commission - by January 16, 2014; Homer City Council - January 27, 2014
Life size plasticine clay bust complete - February 15, 2014; Foundry casts sculpture - April 30, 2014; I

RESTRICTIONS

ARE THERE ANY KNOWN COVENANTS, REQUIREMENTS OR RESTRICTIONS THAT COME WITH THE PIECE? _____
NO

WHAT EXPECTATIONS DO YOU HAVE FOR THE CITY OF HOMER IN ACCEPTING THIS ARTWORK? _____
Provide space in Park.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

WAS THERE ANY COMMUNITY OR USER INVOLVEMENT IN SELECTING THE RECOMMENDED LOCATION? _____
Public Arts and Parks and Rec Commissions

PLEASE INCLUDE ANY LETTER(S) OF SUPPORT FOR THE PROJECT OR PROPOSED DONATION.

APPLICANT MUST SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION WITH THIS APPLICATION.

☒ AN RESUME OR BIO FROM THE ARTIST WHO CREATED OR WILL CREATE THE ARTWORK.

☒ FIVE TO TEN IMAGES OF PAST WORK FROM THE ARTIST. THESE CAN BE PHOTOGRAPHS.

☒ THREE TO FIVE CLEAR IMAGES OF THE PROPOSED ARTWORK

_____ SCALE DRAWING/MODEL OF THE PROPOSED ARTWORK

_____ IF YOU HAVE A SITE(S) IN MIND PLEASE INCLUDE PHOTO AND DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE(S) AND A SCALED
DRAWING OF THE PROPOSED ARTWORK IN THE RECOMMENDED LOCATION.

_____ A COPY OF A FORMAL APPRAISAL IF AVAILABLE

_____ TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS, MAINTENANCE MANUAL OR DRAWINGS/RECOMMENDATION FROM STRUCTURAL
ENGINEER.

APPLICATIONS ARE TO BE SUBMITTED TO:

THE CITY OF HOMER

CITY CLERKS OFFICE

491 E. PIONEER AVENUE

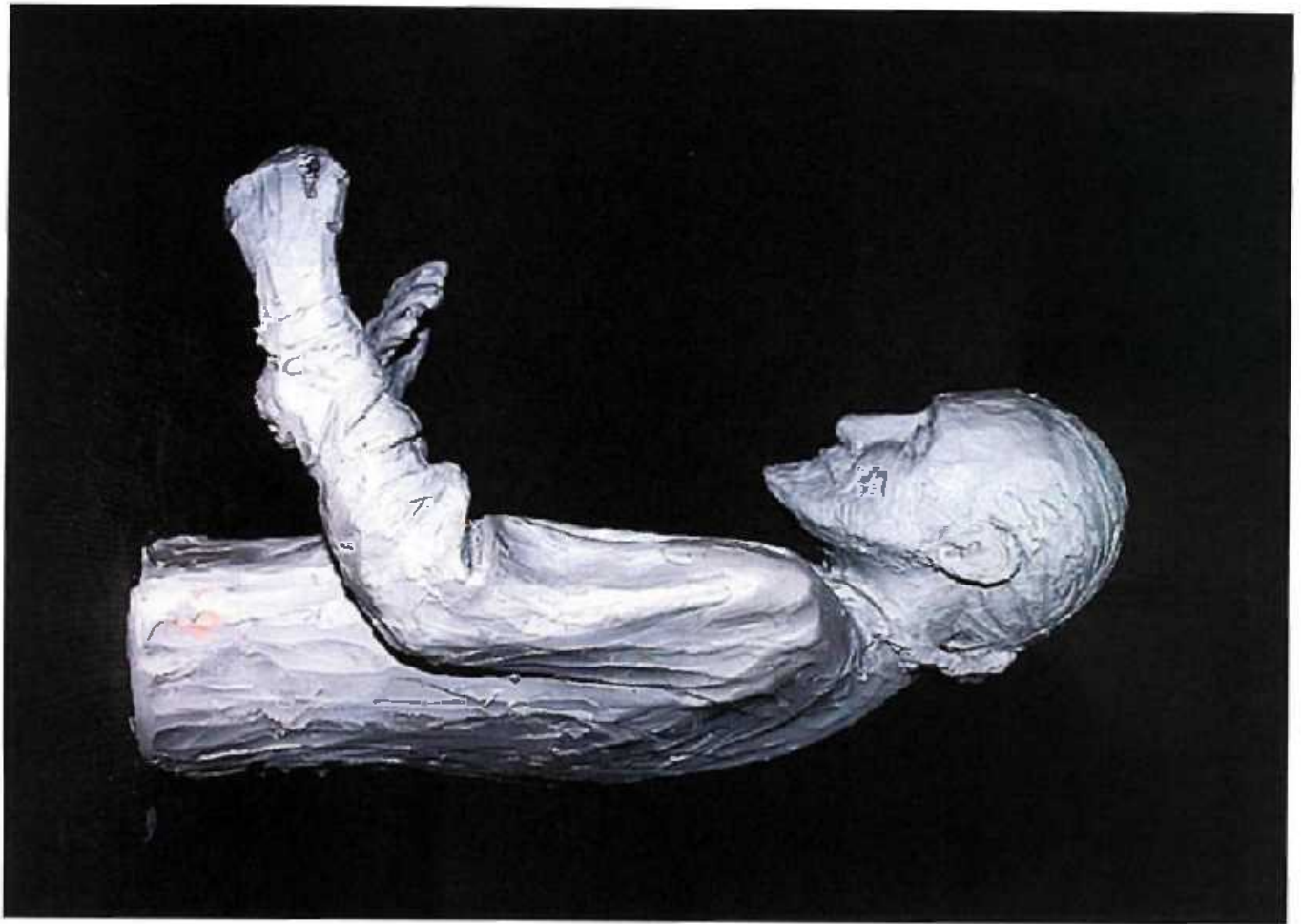
HOMER, AK 99603

OR YOU MAY SUBMIT VIA FAX AT 907-235-3143 TO SUBMIT VIA EMAIL PLEASE SEND TO clerk@ci.homer.ak.us

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT THE CLERK'S OFFICE AT 235-3130.







Leo Vait

leovait@gmail.com

907.399.8025

Attending Southern Oregon University as an art major until 1975, I supported myself as a stonemason. Two years later, I started exhibiting painting, jewelry, and sculpture, using various mediums. Today my work has been shown in Oregon, Washington, and Alaska with the following notable purchases and/or commissions:

- Homer's Pratt Museum: one watercolor, two wood sculptures, and an installation piece to one of their exhibits
- Alaska State Council on the Arts: *Bone Music*, a major steel and concrete sculpture, located outside the Atwood Building in Anchorage. (2006 under the 1% for the Arts program)
- Kachemak Bay Campus, Homer: sign constructed of steel, wood, and concrete, located in the outside entryway

Over the last several years, my art has leaned toward functional commissions: fireplaces, doors, countertops, walkways, and furniture. Now, floating into those fabled "golden years," I have returned to exploring the human body through drawing, painting, and sculpture, an ancient human interest.

VAIT
IST

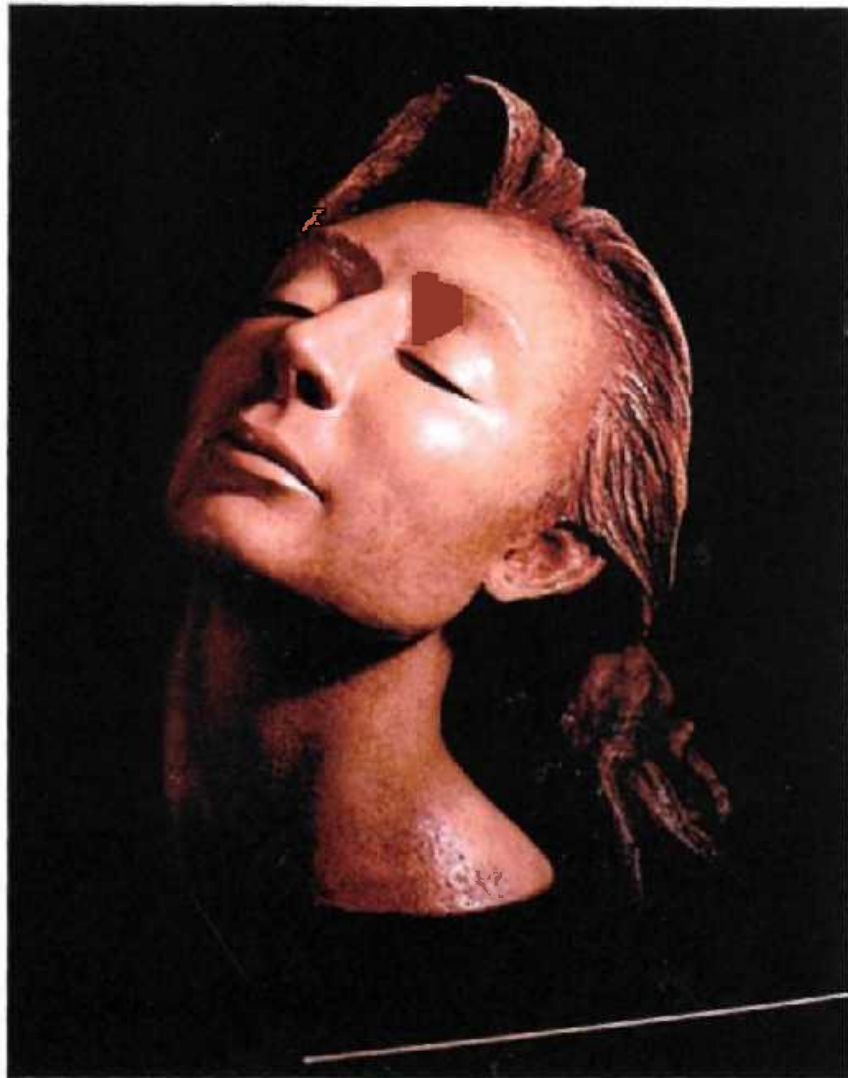


From the Seal Dance '86
30" X 14"

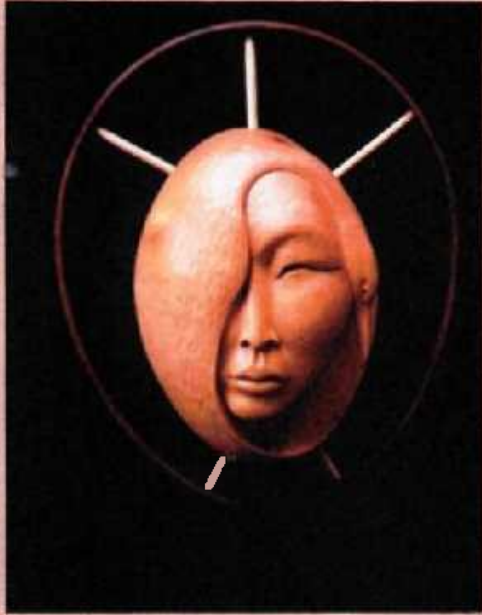
Yellow/Red Cedar
from the collection of:
The Pratt Museum



"Bone Music"
13' H x 15' W
Welded Steel - 2005



"Cindy"
lifesize
clay '99

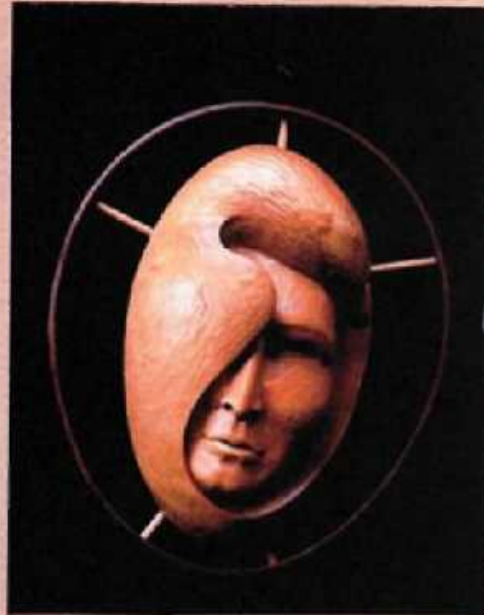


Heart of Crane '85

19" X 16"

Birch/Cedar

from the collection of:



Heart of Eagle '85

19" x 16"

Birch/Cedar

from the collection of:







To: Whom It May Concern

From: James C Hornaday
Mayor Ex Officio
City of Homer

Date: 15 December 2013

Subject: Support for Brother Asaiah sculpture in WKFL Park

This letter is in support of a bronze bust of Brother Asaiah to be mounted on the rock in the WKFL Park. I understand it will be designed and built by local artist, Leo Vait. Brother Asaiah was a much beloved Homer character who was able to bring the various Homer groups together. His favorite saying was: "The kingdom of heaven is within you."

James C. Hornaday
Box 2489 Homer, AK

December 18, 2013

To Whom It May Concern,

When Mayor of Homer, 1996-2004, I always appreciated the presence of Brother Asaiah at Homer's City Council meetings. As with any governing body, there are struggles and triumphs, while opposing views and policies are hashed out in public. Whatever the issue, no matter the length of the meeting, Brother Asaiah stayed with us and the community to the end when he would thank everyone for their good work. He became an "ambassador of peace" summing up the issues with positive tolerance and humanitarian advocacy. All eyes and spirits turned to him for his wisdom, knowledge, faith, and love.

In the middle of this town is a small park that brings all walks of life and all forms of activism. Gatherings are allowed with respect and reverence for freedom of speech through peaceful assembly. It is only appropriate that Brother Asaiah's influence over this community be honored by an artist-rendered likeness to be placed on the large solid rock in WKFL Park which Brother donated to the City of Homer.

Sincerely,

Jack Cushing

PUBLIC ARTS COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
JANUARY 9, 2014

Session 14-01 a Special Meeting of the Public Arts Committee was called to order on January 9, 2014 at 5:04 pm by Vice Chair Michele Miller at the Homer City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: COMMITTEE MEMBERS APLIN, MILLER AND FELLOWS
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSIONER DEB LOWNEY

TELEPHONIC: COMMITTEE MEMBER NEWBY

ABESENT: COMMITTEE MEMBER GRONING

STAFF: RENEE KRAUSE, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK I
ANGIE OTTESON, PARKS MAINTENANCE COORDINATOR

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Vice Chair Miller requested a motion to approve the agenda.

APLIN/NEWBY – MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.

There was no discussion.

The agenda was approved by consensus of the Committee.

PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Ken Landfield, city resident commented on the Art Donation and placement in WKFL Park to memorialize Brother Asaiah Bates. He commented against the placement of a statue of Brother Asaiah for the following reasons: the little park is getting cluttered especially since the addition of the new restroom. He opined that a more appropriate location for a statue would be the museum or the old Barefooters property at the head of the bay. He commented that he was not convinced that Brother Asaiah would have necessarily wanted a statue of himself as he recalled a sentiment expressed by Brother Asaiah as, "Throw me in a paper sack, walk away and don't look back."

He went on to further comment that a more fitting memorial would be to endow an annual lecture to the dissemination and propagation of the principles Brother Asaiah held dear, peace and communication and the respectful exchange of ideas. A recurring annual event perhaps on Martin Luther King Jr Day or (9/11) National Day of Service and Remembrance might be a more dynamic, vital memorial and testimonial to our dear departed friend. He opined it could be called "The Brother Asaiah Bates WKFL Memorial Lecture Series". Mr. Landfield believed he would have liked that. Mr. Landfield thanked the committee for their time.

RECONSIDERATION

There were no items for reconsideration.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES *(Minutes are approved during regular or special meetings only)*

A. Meeting Minutes for Regular Meeting of November 14, 2013

Vice Chair Miller requested a motion to approve the minutes.

NEWBY/APLIN – MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES.

There was a brief discussion on approving minutes at a special meeting.

The minutes were approved as presented by consensus of the Committee.

VISITORS

There were no visitors scheduled.

STAFF & COUNCIL/COMMITTEE REPORTS/ AND BOROUGH REPORTS

There was no written staff report. Ms. Krause stated she could answer questions if there were any on the items in the packet.

Vice Chair Miller stated she would prefer to address questions when they discussed the agenda items.

The committee did not voice objection to that decision.

PUBLIC HEARING

There were no items for public hearing.

PENDING BUSINESS

A. Uniform Signage Design

Vice Chair Miller read the title into the record and invited Ms. Krause to lead the discussion.

Ms. Krause explained for the record that the committee discussed and approved issuing a quote request to three local sign design companies and one designer/artist. This was done in November and proposals were due on December 19, 2013. Each proposer was given the criteria that was determined and agreed upon by the joint committee which comprised of Commissioner Lowney from the Parks and Recreation Commission; Parks Maintenance Coordinator, Angie Otteson and the Public Arts Committee.

They received two responses. Those were included in the packet. Ms. Krause provided a brief description of the proposal received from the proposers. Due to the time requirements outlined in the Request for a Quote that is the reason why this was added to agenda.

The following comments were noted:

- Liked to word "Welcome" on the signs
- Posts are included on each proposal
- Prices are broken out by each proposer
- Installation is included for each
- The RFQ stated the amount available
- Installation may be accomplished by city personnel

Comments made strictly on the aesthetics of the proposals received:

Proposed by Lost Things Designs

Liked the "Welcome to" on the signage
Liked the indications on what kind of amenities are at the park, too busy depending on the location, miniscule city logo, silhouettes may become dated sooner

Handpainted by Dan Coe

Strong City Logo
Clean Design
Timeless design
Lettering stands out
Warranty against peeling, fading and material design for 5 years

APLIN/LOWNEY - MOVED TO SUBMIT TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION FOR RECOMMENDATION ON DESIGN TO BE INCLUDED IN RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL.

There was a brief discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

APLIN/NEWBY - MOVED TO SUBMIT RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL TO AWARD HANDPAINTED DESIGNS BY DAN COE OF ANCHOR POINT, ALASKA IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,650.00 FOR THE SMALLER SIGN DESIGN FOR JEFFREY PARK, BAYVIEW PARK AND LOUIE'S LAGOON AND LOST THINGS DESIGNS OF HOMER, ALASKA, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,360.00 FOR THE LARGER UNIQUE PARK DESIGN FOR JACK GIST PARK AND FURTHER RECOMMEND COUNCIL APPROVE THESE DESIGNS AS THE STANDARDS FOR CITY PARKS, TRAILS, BEACHES AND RECREATIONAL AREAS.

There was a brief discussion on the decision to split the design choices and that it followed along with their design criteria.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

B. Re-advertised 1% for Art on the Homer Spit

Vice Chair Miller introduced the item into the record and asked Ms. Krause if there was any action needed.

Ms. Krause explained that it was informational in nature and unless there was any questions on the enclosed materials no action or discussion was required. The Request for Proposals was re-advertised and two proposers are on the plan holder's list. It was noted that the RFP closes on January 23rd. The same members of the selection committee have agreed to continue and will meet on February 4, 2014 to review the proposals received.

There were a few comments from the committee on their dismay that Mooserun Metalsmiths were not able to accept the award.

There was no further discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Donation of Commissioned Artwork for Placement within WKFL Park

1. Gift proposal form
2. Pictures of proposed art donation
3. Resume of artist
4. Artist previous works
5. Photos of Asaiah Bates
6. Letters of support

Vice Chair Miller read the title into the record. Ms. Krause noted this started with an inquiry from Ms. Otteson.

Ms. Otteson stated that Leo Vait, local artist, contacted her regarding his commissioned sculpture, stating that he wanted approval before further work was done on the sculpture and submittal to the foundry. Ms.

Otteson felt that it should go before the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission since it was being requested to be placed in a city park. She contacted Ms. Krause who notified her about the process in place for donating works of art to the city.

Chair Newby expressed appreciation for Ms. Otteson and the city manager for their support of the protocols; she stated that she received emails with photos from Mr. Will Files.

Discussion ensued on the cost of the artwork and what the procedure was regarding the donation application. Chair Newby provided a summary explanation on the background of the application and recalled the donation of the bench as a memorial for the eagle lady. Vice Chair Miller stated that it still did not explain the procedure on what the committee should do now. Ms. Aplin stated that while the idea of the donation is acceptable, it is apparent that the venue may not be acceptable.

Commissioner Lowney was permitted to offer her comment stating that this item was on the Parks and Recreation Commission agenda next week and she believed that due to the conflict on the appropriateness of the suggested placement in WKFL Park that they provide more opportunity for the public to weigh in, she further opined that she understood the concern expressed by Mr. Landfield regarding the overcrowding of the park but she had less concern on that since it would be installed on top of an existing rock, technically it is not taking up space.

The committee discussed the need for further opportunity for a public hearing; that Brother Asaiah was a very unassuming man; why this project needed fast tracking through the process and making a quick decision. The committee expressed concern on the venue being appropriate. It was determined that council was the appropriate forum to get the word out to the public.

Vice Chair Miller requested a motion. Ms. Krause requested a few minutes to draft the appropriate motion for the committee.

APLIN/NEWBY - MOVED TO RECOMMEND THAT THE DONATION OF THE SCULPTURE WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO ADD TO THE MUNICIPAL ART COLLECTION HOWEVER THERE IS A QUESTION REGARDING THE LOCATION BEING APPROPRIATE AND THEREFORE RECOMMEND CITY COUNCIL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE ISSUE. FURTHERMORE, THE COMMITTEE WOULD ALSO RECOMMEND CITY COUNCIL INCLUDE THE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING ON JANUARY 16, 2014 IN THEIR DELIBERATIONS.

There was no further discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

A. Memorandum dated November 21, 2013 Re: 2014 Regular Meeting Schedule

Vice Chair Miller inquired if there was any discussion or question on the memorandum. There was a brief discussion on the error in the meeting dates.

COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE

Mike Kennedy, resident, stated he was the person in some of the pictures that were included in the packet, although he did not know why; he stated that Brother Asaiah did not want anyone to know where he was buried and did not want a head stone. Brother Asaiah did not want the park known by his name either. Brother Asaiah did not want to be held on this plane, he believed that his soul, energy and or vibration to travel to other planes. He wanted to be free to keep going and not get sucked back. Mr.

Kennedy had no idea about this sculpture. He does know Leo Vat Will Files and Martha; and he has seen John Nazarian this past summer.

Mr. Kennedy stated that he held conversations with others who knew Brother Asaiah and they all agreed that Brother Asaiah would not want to be memorialized like this. He has called and spoke to the City Manager who was not aware of that information. To put what is basically a tombstone in the center of town is not what Asaiah wanted. Mr. Kennedy felt that it would be wrong to accept this as Public Art and Brother Asaiah would not want everyone fighting about it either. He additionally questioned why it was being fast-tracked too. It was being paid for and would be done with or without the city.

Mr. Kennedy opined that you have to acknowledge that Public Art has a bad reputation being vandalized; every piece of public art has been vandalized; he additionally consulted with his friend and local artist, Brad Hughes who commented that the medium being used, bronze, was an old people thing and most bronze statues have been stolen, cut up and turned in as scrap metal by drug addicts.

Mr. Kennedy strongly opposed the city accepting the sculpture into their collection based on his personal knowledge that Brother Asaiah would not have wanted to be memorialized and tied to this earth. He believed that it would be more important to carry on the message Asaiah tried to impart.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY STAFF

Ms. Krause commented that Mr. Kennedy was very young in the picture.

COMMENTS OF THE COUNCILMEMBER *(If one is assigned)*

No councilmembers were present.

COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR

There were no comments from the chair.

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE

There were no comments from members of the committee.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee Vice Chair Miller adjourned the meeting at 6:10 p.m. **A WORKSESSION IS SCHEDULED FOR 4:00 P.M. PRIOR TO THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING WHICH IS SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 13, 2014 AT 5:00 P.M.** at City Hall Conference Room Upstairs, 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

Renee Krause, CMC, Deputy City Clerk I

Approved: _____



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Memorandum

TO: MAYOR WYTHE AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

THROUGH: RENEE KRAUSE, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

DATE: JANUARY 21, 2014

SUBJECT: ACCEPTANCE AND PLACEMENT OF BRONZE BUST OF BROTHER ASAIAH

BACKGROUND

At a regular meeting on January 16, 2014 the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission heard public testimony for and against placement of a sculpture of Brother Asaiah in WKFL Park. The Commission recommended forwarding a recommendation of support that further opportunity for public comment was needed in the form of a public hearing.

Below is an excerpt from the meeting minutes of the January 16, 2014 regular meeting regarding that discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Recommendation for Support of Placement of Commissioned Sculpture in WKFL Park

Chair Steffy read the title into the record and inquired if more discussion was needed on the subject or if there were additional comments from the commissioners.

Commissioner Brann commented on the statements and comments received on both sides of the issue and he believed a continued discussion would be appreciated. He agreed that no one wanted to fight about the decision but a good discussion would be valuable to making a decision. He appreciated people coming tonight.

Chair Steffy opined on the memorialization of an individual and the contrasts between what the individuals want and what the individual being memorialized might have wanted done. He further stated that there are two questions to ask –

- 1. Are you memorializing the individual for the sake of the individual?*
- 2. Are you memorializing the individual for the sake of the people he influenced.*

Chair Steffy stated he believed the commission heard that during the public comments tonight. He opined that it would be appropriate for a public hearing to be held by City Council regarding this issue to get more public input on the placement. Chair Steffy requested a motion.

LOWNEY/BRANN - MOVED TO SUPPORT THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE DONATION OF THE ART PIECE TO THE CITY COLLECTION BUT RECOMMEND A PUBLIC FORUM TO FURTHER DISCUSS THE PLACEMENT ON THAT PIECE.

Chair Steffy stated he will attend that meeting to answer any questions regarding the Commission recommendation.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

RECOMMENDATION

HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING TO OBTAIN MORE PUBLIC INPUT ON THE PLACEMENT OF A BRONZE BUST OF BROTHER ASAIAH .

**HOMER PUBLIC ARTS COMMITTEE
ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES
(Revised January 24, 2011)**

The Public Arts Committee, hereafter referred to as PAC, was created in 2002 to administer Ordinance 02-25 (A) of the Homer City Code. Frequently called the “1% for Art Program”, the ordinance wishes to foster culture and the arts in our community through the purchase and commissioning of works of art for municipal buildings and facilities. This manual guides the Committee in execution of its responsibilities.

Public Arts Committee - Declaration of Purpose

It is hereby declared as a matter of public policy that support for artists and arts organizations, development and stewardship of public art, cultural tourism, arts education and cultural development are public necessities and essential for the continuing growth and development of Homer’s citizens, economy, and quality of life. The primary duty of the Public Arts Committee is to identify and actively encourage the development and sustainability of arts in the City by serving as the City’s primary resource in matters of art, culture, public art and cultural tourism.

Accession Policy

To establish an orderly and consistent process for reviewing artwork for acceptance into the Municipal Art Collection ensuring that the collection is comprised of artwork of the highest quality.

Definition

Accession is to accept artwork in to the Municipal Art Collection

Policy

1. Accession procedures insure that the interests of all concerned parties are represented including the Public Arts Committee, the Public, the Artist, the Arts Community and the City of Homer.
2. Artwork shall be distinctive artistic merit and aesthetic quality and will enhance the diversity of the Municipal Art Collection.
3. Artwork shall be appropriate in and for its site, scale, material, form, and content for both its immediate and general social and physical environment.
4. Artwork shall be reasonably durable against theft, vandalism, weather, and excessive maintenance costs.
5. Accession implies the responsibility to preserve, protect, and display the artwork for public benefit.
6. Accession implies a work’s permanency within the Municipal Art Collection, providing that the work retains its physical integrity, identity and authenticity.
7. Artwork will be acquired without restrictions as to its future use and disposition except as provided in contracts with artists.
8. Artwork will be accessioned into the City of Homer’s Municipal Art Collection only upon completion of all facets of the Commissioning or purchasing contract and final approval of City Council.
9. Each accessioned work into the Municipal Art Collection will be documented to the fullest extent possible, including artist’s last known address and when available photograph.

10. The artist's signed contract or release transferring title for the artwork and clearly defining the rights and responsibilities of all parties will accompany every accessioned work and shall be in the documented records of the work.

11. In the case of interagency or interlocal agreements a copy of the agreement and signatures of all parties will be kept in the office of the City Clerk.

12. Accession results from projects and purchases generated as part of the Municipal Art program except in case of donations which will be reviewed in accordance with the City of Homer Public Arts Committee policy on gifts and if accepted will be accessioned pursuant to this accession policy. (Reso. 10-80, 2011.)

Gift Policy

Purpose

To identify a procedure and criteria for the Public Arts Committee to review proposed gifts of artwork.

Definition

Gifts are personal or real property that is donated or bequeathed with or without restrictions to the City of Homer for actual artwork, property for placement or funds for the acquisition of artwork.

Policy

1. The Public Arts Committee will review all proposed gifts as defined above and will evaluate the suitability of proposed gifts and make recommendations to the Homer City Council in accordance with Homer City Code which allows acceptance of donations.

2. Each Proposed gift will be reviewed for the following:

- a. Aesthetic Quality – the proposed gift has significant aesthetic merit.
- b. Appropriateness of Chosen Site or Location – scale of artwork is appropriate for the site including relationship between the artwork and the site and obstacles of the site.
- c. Restrictions from the Donor – any restrictions must be clearly identified and may be a factor in determining whether to accept a gift.
- d. Originality of Artwork – artworks must be one of a kind or part of an original series reproductions of originals are not considered eligible for acceptance.
- e. Relationship to the Collection as a Whole – the Public Arts Committee is committed to creating a diverse collection of art. The proposed gift must be compatible with the Municipal Art Collection without being over represented.
- f. Technical Feasibility – the realistic ability for the proposed project to be built and installed as proposed in the selected location.
- g. Technical Specifications – the Public Arts Committee must review the actual work if available or a scale drawing and or model consisting of site plans and elevations describing the following:

1. Surrounding site conditions if applicable
2. Dimensions
3. Materials and finishes
4. Colors
5. Electrical, Plumbing, or other utility requirements
6. Construction and installation method
7. Additional support material such as text verbally describing the artwork and specifications, models, or presentation drawings by a licensed engineer may be required.

h. Budget – cost to manage the project, prepare the site, deliver and or install the work, funds for signage/recognition, and any other cost should be disclosed by the donor in a budget. The Public Arts Committee will determine if the costs are accurate and realistic and that the donor has clearly delineated responsibility for all costs associated with the project.

i. Timeline – expected timeline for donation or installation should be proposed by the donor. The Public Arts Committee will determine if the timeline is realistic.

j. Durability – expected lifetime and staying power of the material used to create the artwork especially if set in the out of doors or in a non-archival exhibition setting and exposed to the elements.

k. Warranty – the donor agrees to be responsible for a warranty period of one (1) year from the date of final installation of the artwork to insure the integrity of the material, fabrication and installation when installed in or on a city owned facility or property.

l. Vandalism and Safety – the artwork will not be prone to vandalism or pose a safety hazard.

m. Maintenance and Preservation – donor's agreement to provide a technical and maintenance record including a plan for routine care with estimated costs. The donor must indicate if there are any unusual or ongoing costs to maintain artwork.

3. Donors proposing gifts will be informed of the importance of the above criteria in the Public Arts Committee consideration.

4. The Public Arts Committee will have final authority through the City Manager to review and recommend to Homer City Council to accept or reject the donated artwork.

5. All gifts that are recommended for acceptance will only be accepted into the Municipal Art Collection pursuant to the Accession Policy. (Reso. 10-80, 2011.)

Procedure to Propose a Donation of Artwork to the City of Homer

The Public Arts Committee is charged with the responsibility of evaluating the suitability of a proposed artwork and making recommendation to the City Council as to whether or not to accept it as a gift. If accepted, the donated work becomes the responsibility of the City of Homer, which will inventory, insure, maintain and repair it as required by Homer City Code and Alaska State Law.

Definition

Gifts are personal or real property that is donated, devised or bequeathed with or without restrictions to the City of Homer. Gifts can be actual artwork, property for placement of artwork or funds for the acquisition of artwork.

Gift Policy is the policy that identifies the procedure and criteria for reviewing proposed gifts of artwork to the City of Homer.

Accession Policy is the policy that defines an orderly and consistent process for reviewing artwork for acceptance into the Municipal Art Collection insuring that the collection is comprised of artwork of the highest quality. (Reso. 10-80, 2011.)

Process

The Public Arts Committee will review all proposed gifts according to the Gift Policy. They will evaluate the suitability of the proposed gifts and make recommendations to the Homer City Council through the City Manager.

In order to provide the Public Arts Committee with the information necessary to evaluate the proposed artwork in accordance with the Gift Policy and Accession Policy the potential donor or donor's representative must complete the Gift Proposal Application and submit to the City of Homer, City Clerk's Office. (Reso. 10-80, 2011.)

Presentation to the Public Arts Committee

If applicable the donor will be scheduled to present his or her proposal to the Public Arts Committee at the next regular meeting. The donor is expected to present the actual artwork or model or scale drawings of the proposed piece. If it is not possible depending on the artwork a photograph may be accepted upon approval of a majority vote of the Public Arts Committee.

The Public Arts Committee will review the proposal consider the presentation and make a recommendation at the meeting. If the proposal materials do not give the Public Arts Committee enough information to make an educated recommendation they may request to postpone recommendation until further information is provided by the donor.