

Questions arise over student art show at KPAC meeting

By CRAIG MURPHY
Of the Keizertimes

So you thought a student art show at city hall would be a simple topic.

It's not, or at least not in Keizer.

A student art show is scheduled to be at the Keizer Civic Center from April through June. Discussion of the show was a topic during the Dec. 22 Keizer Public Arts Commission (KPAC) meeting. Originally conceived as a Salem-Keizer Education Foundation (SKEF) show, chair Lore Christopher said it should now be called an all-student art show.

The bigger issue: if students should have to pay commission for any work sold at the show, in keeping with standard KPAC policy.

"It's not your choice," Community Development director Nate Brown told KPAC members. "As the council approved your policy, you need to charge everyone."

Christopher said that would be a problem.

"They will not allow us to charge students a commission," said Christopher, who noted she had talked with SKEF executive director Krina Lee. "It's a real coup to help the entire school district."

Brown said waiving the usual commission fee wouldn't be simple.

"You don't have the au-

thority to waive or change the commission rate," Brown said. "Remember, we fought hard to get that. It would be up to the city council to alter that. Or you could choose to not accept the show, but I don't think anyone is anxious for that."

Christopher questioned if students should be able to sell their pieces during the show.

"My expectation is if all the art was sold, maybe that would be \$1,000," she said. "Is that really what you want to do?"

Beth Melendy pointed to the precedent that would be set if students weren't charged a commission.

"It wouldn't be fair to other artists if everyone was charged commission and students aren't," she said.

Jessi Long noted she paid a commission to her school's art program while in high school.

"If they know ahead of time, they can mark up the price," Long said.

Christopher said a commission would be a big issue for SKEF.

"They said they won't do it then," Christopher said.

Rick Day suggested working with Salem-Keizer School District superintendent Christy Perry, while Christopher suggested her own alternative.

"One workaround is no pieces can be sold at the show," she said. "Maybe cut the deal after the show."

Melendy said that could work.

"It's better than no show at all," she said.

Christopher said it was school policy not to allow others to make money off the students, which would be the issue with charging a commission.

"It's not Christy, it's Krina," Christopher said. "It's SKEF policy. Actually, I don't know which it is. To solve it, there would be no sales. If anyone is interested in a piece, they can go to Krina."

Christopher emphasized the importance of having the show.

"This is giving students a chance to show their art," she

said. "That 5-year-old will be as proud of their work as the high schooler."

Day agreed with the idea of no sales during the show, but any sales afterwards due to work being seen at the show should result in a commission being paid. Melendy also agreed work should not be sold during the show.

"I will explain it to Krina," Christopher said. "I'm not trying to change anything."

While there were questions about the next show at Keizer Civic Center, there were no questions about the current show.

For the third consecutive year, members of the Mid-Valley Quilt Guild have their items on display in their *Quilts at Keizer* show. The items will be on display through the end of March.



KEIZERTIMES/Craig Murphy

The *Quilts at Keizer* show by members of the Mid-Valley Quilt Guild is on display now at Keizer Civic Center.



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