



# City of Ann Arbor

301 E. Huron St.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
<http://a2gov.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

## Meeting Minutes Ann Arbor Public Art Commission

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Wednesday, July 25, 2012

4:30 PM

City Hall - Basement Conf Rm A

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### I CALL TO ORDER

*Meeting called to order at 4:32pm*

### II ROLL CALL

*Members present: M Chamberlin, B Miller, C Rizzolo-Brown, C Gendron, W Simbuerger, T Reid, J Kotarski & M Winborne*

*Members absent: T Derezinski*

*Others: Aaron Seagraves, Public Art Administrator; Sabra Briere, City Council Member; Tom Partridge; Mary Morgan, Ann Arbor Chronicle*

### III APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*Moved by Reid, seconded by Brown, that the minutes be approved. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the minutes approved.*

**Approved as presented**

### IV APPROVAL OF AGENDA

*Kotarski asked to include discussion of public comments at the end of the agenda—Chamberlin indicated that it was included as a business item.*

*Reid suggested time limits for items be included in future agendas.*

*MOTION: Made by Winborne, seconded by Reid, that the Agenda be approved as presented. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.*

**Approved**

### V PUBLIC COMMENTS

*Thomas Partridge: Advocate for disabled and middle income. AAPAC should give emphasis to the recruitment of works of art that are political social and justice oriented. In whatever format, whether it is realism or other art forms. There has not been a single piece of art that is committed to people. Would like to see art that speaks to underemployed people, homeless people and to do it in a way that allows for lower budgets. Money should be spent on public art created by students and to allow student art.*

### VI ONGOING BUSINESS

*A. Chair's Reports - None*

*B. Administrator's Reports*

*1. Public Art Budget*

*Request to add an item on the Administrator's Report as an agenda item. There was discussion and some questions about how the individual items on the Administrator's Report fit in the agenda and if those items should be business items on the agenda. The item on the Administrator's Report about AAPAC endorsements was included for discussion further in the agenda in Old Business.*

*Annual Plan:*

*Gendron asked if the Annual Plan was already presented to City Council. Public Art Administrator said that it was presented to City Council in April, or May. Gendron said she was thinking that there would be more projects on the Annual Plan.*

*CIP:*

*Reid said that the report was informative and said the Public Art Administrator did a good job in getting on the Capital Improvement Plan group. Public Art Administrator explained the CIP and said the Commission could give indication as to what locations could be priorities for them and that information could be used at CIP meetings.*

*Brown asked if the Strategic Plan on the agenda for approval would serve that purpose.*

*Kotarski asked if the Capital Improvements Plan method for selection would prioritize the selection of public art by the Commission and that was being suggested.*

*Public Art Administrator said this was part of the discussion at the meeting with city staff regarding public art and the CIP and that it was a possibility. The Task Forces that are a part of the Strategic Plan for FY 2013 to FY 2016 would work to create a prioritization of locations.*

*Brown thought this process for the selection of public art projects was the opposite of what the Strategic Plan outlines.*

*Chamberlin thought that what the Public Art Administrator meant was the same process for selection. She took it to mean that the process would be iterative and the planning would go back and forth between the Commission and the CIP meetings.*

*Reid said that sometimes the Commission get lost in the details and suggested that we start the agenda with the strategic plan. She asked if the CIP could add public art projects to the CIP and if using a scoring method similar to the CIP was recommended?*

*Chamberlin said that we have created a scoring method in the past. The criteria of the qualitative and her and the vice chair could work on a scoring method for the next month's meeting.*

*C. Committee Reports*

*Public Relations Committee:*

*Gendron said there was no report, the Committee did not meet in July. Thanked everyone for the effort at the Townie Party and thanked Commissioners Miller and Kotarski for attending. Wanted to thank Hannah Nathans for her effort and work painting the display.*

*D. Project Reports ( See Administrator's Report)*

*Simbuerger wondered if there was anything that could be done to move state of the project from being at legal. Asked if there were any tools we have to move the process along?*

Public Art Administrator suggested writing a letter to city staff.  
Chamberlin asked what projects were currently being reviewed.

Gendron suggested updating the process guidelines and planning for more time for legal review.

Brown said she don't know how long projects linger at legal and said that the Fuller Road Station project waited 4 months.

Reid asked if there was anything we can do to adjust the time and to help out.

Simbuerger suggested doing what they could to influence the process.

Chamberlin said that she had meet with legal last month and thought that it was possible to expedite this process. She said the Mayor was at that meeting and he stated that he wanted to see results. She also suggested she could ask Council Member Derezinski about it.

#### 1. Justice Center

Kotarski asked if there was more information on the movement of the security check point. Public Art Administrator said this was out of the purview of the Commission, but knew that there had been a recent meeting about that topic. Chamberlin asked Council Member Briere to comment. Briere said some council members had met regarding moving the security check point in the lobby. She said the Mayor requested city staff look into moving them closer to the elevators. She said the lobby could be a great gathering place. She stated that Council approved the public art project.

#### 2. Allmendinger Park Mural

Miller enjoyed handing out the donation packets for the Allmendinger mural to people who attended the Townie Party. Kotarski said the artist, Thiefels, was at the Townie Party very excited about the interest in her project. Kotarski said he was reading the [annarbor.com](http://annarbor.com) article and the comments about the Kingsley and First rain garden project. He read some comments that stated they had tried to contact the Commission but had not been able to receive a response. He said factual information could be given and not pick a fight. Miller said he had read those statements and that another commenter had addressed it by referring to the online contact information. Reid wanted to know if there was a solution. Kotarski suggested that the Public Art Administrator should take the initiative should comment on the articles and that there should be statement that could be supplied, like the comments about the selection of local artists that are always being written. He said we have a good reason for the not selecting the local artists based on the Commerce clause. Chamberlin asked what would be suggested to do with the comments. Kotarski suggested writing a narrative that is compelling and that should be told. Reid wondered if the commissioners could write in response to the online comments. Gendron said the Public Relations Committee addresses the issues of PR and said there are other avenues to address these issues. Simbuerger said we have projects that address these issues and we have public events that can communicate this. Kotarski said that we value local sourcing of materials and we can make that case. Brown said that we as a Commission don't have that ability to choose the source of materials. Kotarski said that for example we could state how we value non-local sourced materials less. Chamberlin said the criteria of local sourcing could be looked at as something to be included as a criterion for selecting projects.

*E. Additional Reports**1. North Main Task Force*

*Brown had an introductory meeting with the Task Force and it will be followed up with another meeting.*

*Miller said there he will be meeting with the South State Street Task Force on the on the 30th for an initial meeting.*

*2. Dreiseitl Sculpture - see written report*

*Chamberlin thought that the answers responded completely. Reid said that according to the report the sculpture was supposed to go dry and that it solved our question. She said the report was done very well Chamberlin said that it seemed the people who had initiated the project didn't know it was supposed to be dry. Kotarski said he wanted to make three comments regarding the sculpture and the report. He thought that there is an understanding that there was opportunity for public involvement with this project. He said that he don't think public meetings translate as involvement. He said the Commission should engage the public more. He thought the self reflection and evaluation done with this project should be done with all public art projects. Doing so articulates what does need to be refined. He proposed that with every single project we should value this process and we should ask everyone involved in the project for all the upcoming projects. He said that he was disappointed that not everyone replied to the questions. Reid said that the sculpture is not a water fountain. Kotarski said he does not think that it was built according to the artist's design. We didn't think the rain water came from the roof but that it was only collecting from the sculpture's surface. He asked if it could be verified that the water is coming from the roof. Public Art Administrator said he was correct that water was collected from the sculpture, but that it also collects rainwater from the roof of City Hall. Council Member Briere commented on the rain water coming from buildings and said you can see it happen. Brown said she didn't think they designed it for the droughts or the 100 degree temperatures.*

*Kotarski said that if the sculpture is to be a barometer there should be a correlation between the rain water and the water amount. Reid wanted to know if the Commission should ask to be educated to about the functioning of the sculpture by the design team. She also said the text for the sign was good and only suggested adding a picture. Miller said that the Commission should have a debriefing format to use to evaluate future projects and it should be circulated for approval. Winborne suggested that the Commission don't what to get into annalist paralyzes and said they should use the same questions for every project.*

*Gendron agreed that they should make this report format a boiler plate. Chamberlin agreed that the Commission could have someone from the project come in and explain it at the next meeting. Simbuerger said the sign should explain the project and that would be enough. Brown thought that it would be worthwhile to have education about the sculpture at a meeting.*

**VII OLD BUSINESS**

*Strategic Plan, Fiscal Year 2013 to 2016:*

*Chamberlin introduced the strategic plan and said that it had been updated from the last meeting. She said the definition of goals and objectives were clarified.*

Chamberlin asked for comments.

Brown said that the topic of public art education had been talked about and could be included.

Reid said education could be a function of the Public Relations Committee.

Miller would like to add the objective of including public art in the CIP.

Kotarski suggested including the idea of local sourcing as a value of the Commission. He said it wouldn't be as a requirement, but as a value. He also said it doesn't mean local artists, but using local resources and fabricator is important and said public art isn't created by just one person. He said as an example, if I were a welder, I weld my own art but could value by working with national artist.

Brown said she don't want to be in a position to endorse something that the Commission has no control over and said that that would be something the Commission should consider.

Winborne agreed, saying local sourcing falls under the purview of the city and that this something we don't have control over.

Reid said she had concerns that local artist couldn't do the projects we want and that the Commission would not want to be limited to just that.

Winborne said he had created a scoring matrix and adding a score for local artist was not allowed as criteria.

Simbuerger said we have to have an answer to that question about local artist she said we can create a mission statement and make a commitment to local sourcing and say something about how we see this in a positive way.

Winborne said it could be a statement that we value local artists.

Reid said that this discussion isn't a part of the strategic plan.

Kotarski said he would like to add a statement that we value local artists and task forces could consider that statement.

Chamberlin said that the Commission could agree with that, but it could be adding in the criteria of selection that does not fit in the Strategic Plan.

Kotarski offered that the Commission could drive that policy.

Miller we could add that to Task Force recommendations.

Chamberlin asked for any changes to the Goals and Objectives.

Reid said the percent for public art funds could be divided in an equitable basis for each city area. She said she wanted to reconsider the amount of projects to develop for quadrant in each year. She asked if one project would be too much.

Winborne suggest a change of one "active" project in each Land use Area.

Gendron said the mural program could be rotating to each quadrant.

The Commission questioned whether to eliminate the mural program language to the Strategic Plan. A suggestion was made to eliminate the mention of the required number of murals for each city area.

Kotarski said that murals are seen by the City Administrator to combat graffiti.

Chamberlin said that during the last mural RFP process the Commission received a number of project proposals that were liked and it might be easy to add a number of mural projects.

It was agreed to add one mural per city area during the three years of the Strategic Plan.

Chamberlin asked if the inventory of public art listed as objective was seen as a possibility by the Commission and if the purpose for determining what artwork exists in that quadrant would be helpful in determining what public art locations to select. She said the idea was to count up what exists and use the resources that are there.

The Commission questioned the timeline for objectives laid-out in the Strategic Plan and when the Task Force recommendations would need to be made. A suggestion was made to make a change to the Strategic Plan to include the date of March 1st as a deadline for selection of sites and projects (Goal B, Objective 4).

Brown said there should a plan to successful follow through on this Task Force process and asked if it can be done timely.

The Commission had discussion on the number of events per year AAPAC could

commit to and the amount of time the PR committee can commit.

Gendron said a lot of public art newsletter incorporate public art news that and said the Commission could do so and talk about other public art topics in the newsletter. Reid offered to the Commission her opinion that there should be an objective about electronic communications and suggested an additional objective to the one of the Strategic Plan Goals (C) to include electronic communications.

Brown said education would be included in to that Goal also.

Kotarski asked what the art on loan program entail.

Miller discussed the possibility of including the Art on Loan earlier than the FY 2015. Simbuerger asked if that program is a Goal to include in the Strategic Plan. She suggested add the mural program and art on loan to a goal and include them as separate goals and then include language to add "at least one" new program as an objective under that goal.

Chamberlin said that there should be a process for asking for donations to public art and that has been included as a goal. She suggested just having the information available on how to donate and updating the possibility of donation is about all we can do at this point and thought there might not be more need to be active in the pursuit of donations of money.

Miller asked if there isn't a problem to adding the money to the city budget.

Chamberlin agreed to redraft the Strategic Plan for the next meeting.

Motion made to agree on the Strategic Plan in concept and finalize the draft at the next meeting, made by Brown, seconded by Kotarski. On a voice vote, the motion is approved.

Commission endorsement of private public art projects:

Reid said she reviewed the Public Art Administrator's report concerning this and is convinced to not endorse private public art projects. She moved that the Commission not endorse private public art projects.

Gendron seconded the motion.

Miller said it is a sticky topic we don't want to be seen as if we don't care.

Brown said the Commission could not call it an endorsement but promote private art projects as things are going on in the city and that is all.

Reid mentioned that the downsides written in the report are persuasive.

Miller likened it to making an aesthetic judgment call on private artwork.

Kotarski asked to speak on behalf of endorsements. He said we can talk about the word "endorsement," and if it applies, but he thought endorsements work to fulfill the tasks for the Commission. He said we have responsibility to incentivize projects. He said the reason the large Whirlydoodle project came to us is because we are relevant. He said the ordinance relates to this function in 4 of the 9 responsibilities it states. He said we should approve and endorse projects.

Brown said that she agreed with Kotarski's statement, but it shouldn't be called an endorsement.

Reid offered the use the website to add pictures to promote the public art projects.

The motion was restated, "The commission does not endorse private public art projects."

Miller asked if endorsement was the method to promote or encourage public art and, if not, what was that method

Gendron said we could direct these public art projects to the Facebook page as a posting.

Kotarski said not endorsing would diminish our ability to become relevant.

Motion made to not make endorsements of private public art projects, made by Reid, seconded by Gendron. On a voice vote of 7 to 1, the motion is approved. Vote of Yea by: Chamberlin, Winborne, Gendron, Brown, Simbuerger, Miller, & Reid. Vote of Nay by: Kotarski.

*Project Intake Forms, tabled in June; Forest Ave. Plaza & Ellsworth Rd and State St, Round-About (2013)*

*Reid moved to refer the two potential projects to their respective Strategic Plan Task Forces.*

*Motion seconded by Brown.*

*Miller asked to review the two projects now.*

*Simbuerger questioned the process and said the Project Intake Forms were to be submitted to the Programming Committee.*

*Gendron said that Committee was disbanded.*

*Brown said if the Commission were to use the process outlined in the Strategic Plan then the projects should be referred to the Task Force. She asked if there was a time commitment for the project.*

*Chamberlin clarified the location of the Forest Avenue project.*

*Public Art Administrator mentioned that Kuras from city staff had asked him about the project and was interested in getting approval.*

*Kotarski agreed with Miller and said the Commission couldn't afford to kick the can down the road.*

*Chamberlin mentioned that this location was considered by the Commission in the past. She said a consulting police officer had the opinion that the plaza would attract ne'er-do-wells. She suggested that the times change and offered that the Commission should look at them and be prepared to look at it for the next meeting. Simbuerger asked if the project would be downtown.*

*Reid wanted to know if the Commission was just being asked to help in the solicitation of an artist. She said that this proposal has been developed to the point and there would be an opportunity for the Task force to not agree.*

*Kotarski said that we have two projects that are maybe ready or not and he said the Commission cannot wait until March to decide.*

*Miller said we should hand this forward in good fashion to the Strategic Plan Task Force.*

*Reid thought that the Commission would be usurping the new Strategic Plan and the Task Force responsibility if they were to make a decision.*

*Chamberlin said the Commission is in-between the two processes. She suggested the Commission review the projects next month after everyone has a chance to look at them.*

*The Commission agreed.*

## **VIII NEW BUSINESS**

*Chamberlin supported what was written as an update on the item in the Public Art Administrator's report.*

*Motion to establish an SOQ process that creates an artist registry/database for projects in the next three years, made by Winborne, seconded by Kotarski. On a voice vote, the motion is approved.*

*Public Comments at end of meeting*

*Kotarski said he brought this forward at the other meeting to have a public comment at the start and at the end of the meeting. He said it is consistent with other commissions and boards.*

*Miller said that there have been other visitors at our meetings who would have taken the chance to speak and I had this experience.*

*Motion to add Public Commentary at the end of AAPAC meetings, made by Reid, seconded by Brown. On a voice vote, the motion is approved.*

*Changing meeting time and meeting areas:*

*The original motion to change upcoming AAPAC meeting locations and times was motioned by Kotarski with a second by Winborne.*

*Kotarski said some of the comments at Townie Party said that they did not think the commission was accessible. He said that he found all a list of several city commissions that meet in the evening. He suggested meeting in the evening would give an opportunity to have more people come to the meeting. He also said he would also like to rotate the meeting to the different city areas in the Strategic Plan saying that residents could have easier access to us. He said it would be an opportunity to meet in the community and outside of city hall.*

*Miller said he was in favor of that, but said that this was where all the city meetings occur. He said that if we move then the complaint would be that people couldn't find us. He said he would like to change the times.*

*Reid said she liked the idea of having different locations for meetings and getting to see different areas of the city. Said she would have trouble with the change of the time to later in the evening for personal reasons.*

*Miller said he sometimes has a hard time arranging his family's schedules for the meeting.*

*Kotarski said the Commission could have the meetings video-taped by CTN and say that we would like to have it recorded. He said we could bring people into the neighborhood and have artist invited to meetings from that area.*

*Miller suggested that maybe the Task Force meetings would take care of this and the Task Force would meet in that city area.*

*Gendron said we could announce it the change in locations before we have task force meetings. She said we could have initial meetings in the those city areas.*

*Kotarski said it is more to do with the direction to move meetings to be more accessible. He said we can take baby steps in that direction. He wanted to do any of these things to get the community more involved.*

*Miller said having more of a presence makes sense and we should figure out a way to do that.*

*Kotarski offered to present some options next month and asked to withdraw the motion.*

## **IX ADJOURNMENT**

*At 6:55. Motion to adjourn, by Kotarski, second Reid. Approved.*

[12-1009](#)

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**Attachments:** 072512 Business Items.pdf, 072512 Reports.pdf