



City of Ann Arbor
Meeting Agenda
Ann Arbor Public Art Commission

Wednesday, February 27, 2013

City Hall, 4th Floor

4:30PM

CALL TO ORDER

4:37pm

ROLL CALL

Members present: M Chamberlin, C Rizzolo-Brown, J Kotarski & M.Winborne
Members absent: W Simbuerger & B Miller

Others: Aaron Seagraves, Public Art Administrator; Mary Morgan, Ann Arbor Chronicle; Craig Hupy, Public Services Administrator; City Council Member Sabra Briere; Deb Gosselin, Systems Planning; Jason Frenzel, Huron River Watershed Council, Stewardship Coordinator; Jennifer Lawson, Water Quality Manager

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Amended to add C Gendron as an Absent Member of the Commission at the meeting.

Moved by C Brown, seconded by M Winborne; On a voice vote, the Chair declared the minutes approved.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by M Winborne, seconded by C Brown, that the Agenda be approved. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Guest Speaker:

Stormdrain Awareness Art Competition, Jason Frenzel

Frenzel addressed the Commission regarding an art project that he proposed the Public Art Commission collaborate on. He said the Watershed Council promotes activities that involve the Huron River and he works on the education about storm drains and coordinates the placement of plaques on the storm drain that inform people of its connection to the river. His idea is to use art to promote the idea communicated on the plaques. The idea is to coordinate with the Mayor's Green Fair to hold a chalk art event to promote this project. He said following that we would also move the creation of educational chalk art designs into the neighborhood. He thought the art project would be a design competition with a panel of judges. David Zinn has been approached to be

involved. Coordinate with David Zinn. He thought that the project can be helped by the Public Art Commission to get the word out and to contact artists. The funding for it is already in place.

Kotarski said this is a great project, it sets the precedent to have this kind of thing happen and the Commission can be the catalyst. The Commission discussed if it was an endorsement of the project, or if it were another role the Commission would be taking with the project—such as partner, or as a supporting organization. The Commission discussed the Public Art Administrator's staff time and how much would be needed for the project.

Motion to partner with the Huron River Watershed Council and the stormdrain awareness art competition. Made by Winborne, seconded by Kotarski. Motion approved, all in favor.

A student in attendance suggested a contribution for the project.

Guest Speaker:

City Council Task Force on Public Art, Council Member Briere

Council Member Briere asked if there were any questions about the results of the City Council Task Force on Public Art.

Kotarski asked what the discussion has been about the 1% been for art funding.

Briere said the Task Force is trying to find a compromise on the issue of pooling 1% for art funds. She said they are looking at a middle ground that continues government support for public art but doesn't use restricted funds. One idea is that the artwork should be "baked-in" to construction and not added after the construction is completed.

Brown asked what the Commission's role is while the compromise is being sought.

Briere said one of the areas of focus that they wanted to support was community supported art. They want to support a mechanism that promotes art that comes from the community and not from the top down.

Chamberlin asked if the nexus issue would be eliminated and if art could be engineered out new construction.

Hupy said if the program is amended correctly the nexus will not be such an issue.

Briere gave the example of the Court and Police facility that originally had design elements and features that were taken out in the end.

Brown asked what the function of the Commission should be for the next couple of months.

Briere suggested that the Commission look for projects that do not include the 1% for art. She thought there were opportunities that do not require the percent for art mechanism. She said the Task Force is looking at the question of more staffing and more guidance. She said the current ordinance states that funding can be appropriated. When

considering places to place public art 1% for art project should be considered separately from other funded projects.

Winborne asked if there was a threshold to separate capital improvement art projects versus other projects.

Briere said there opportunities for Crowd Sourcing funding. The Ordinance can be streamlined to help the process. She said if capital improvements have a large budget and can include public art the Council will disperse the funds. Capital Improvements would need to be defined differently. The percentages from all the Capital Improvements will be eliminated and the funds will not be pooled. She said that the city can put art in certain projects that are appropriate locations and set the budget for the project to handle it.

Brown asked if the Council would be determining the locations for public art and how the budget for art will be added to the construction projects.

Hupy explained the CIP process. He described how Capital Improvements are prioritized, scheduled and funded. He explained once the scope of the project is established then you can begin to consider adding public art projects into the construction where they are appropriate. He said it is during the discussion of the projects during the process is when public art projects would be identified and recommended to the Public Art Commission. He said the Capital budget is introduced in February and then it is passed later in the year in April. He said it is critical to have input from the Public Art Commission to have some direction about what the art would be and where it can go.

Winborne asked about the budget amount that goes to fund the art.

Hupy said the budget would be set when the project is approved. Everything would be designed out, not in-house, and art design would be included in the early stage of design for the entire project. He said those design elements and design would be presented to the City Council during different decision points with the Capital Budget and at the construction project stage.

Winborne said the commission would operate differently mainly because the Commission wouldn't know how much funding there is.

Chamberlin said the result would be the Commission developing recommendations on public art related to Capital Improvements to provide to staff.

Kotarski said in the past the Commission selected locations for art and questioned if the ordinance change would shift to the selection of Capital Improvements.

Hupy said the Commission can raise the funds for projects at the locations that you want and determine locations for art at future Capital Improvements.

Briere proposed an example of a prominent parking space where art was desired. She said the Commission could ask Council to dedicate money or grants and donations for the work can be sought. She said as advocates for art you don't dispose, you can

propose. The Commission would perform the role of providing support and thought that the City could take that step. With you all performing the role of providing support. I don't have a solution here. She thought the Commission's role can become more effective with the ideas for the ordinance change.

Guest Speaker:
CIP, Deb Gosselin, of Systems Planning

Gosselin presented the Commission an overview of the Capital Improvement Plan. The Commission was given a description of the process and the funding timeline and what it means for projects to be scheduled six years in advance.

She suggested the Commission to target the locations where art was desired and suggested the possibility of creating a Master Plan that can become a regularly updated document.

The Commission discussed the role of the Commission and opportunity to create a Master Plan. The Commission discussed a position of advocacy for public art against the need for being a gatekeeper of quality.

Briere said the Task Force is trying to find a way to give the Public Art Commission more licenses to improve and leave a door open to public art projects however they are funded.

Winborne said our support of a public art project is dependent on our approval.

Kotarski asked if it would be better that we just advocate for a lot of projects and not be the gatekeeper.

Chamberlin said every public art program that I am aware of is the gatekeeper of quality.

Brown said it is a question of how do we get everything to work together.

Kotarski said I'd like to see people come to us for our advice and not permission.

Brown said it is the role to decide on criteria to place things on city property and we need to make sure these projects are correct.

Winborne said finding a way for use to enable things to occur and have those projects come through with a process and through a filter.

Kotarski said we want a creative and a unique city.

Motion to adjourn by Kotarski, seconded by Winborne. Motion approved

ADJOURNMENT

6:32 pm