



City of Ann Arbor

301 E. Huron St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
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Meeting Minutes Ann Arbor Public Art Commission

Wednesday, August 22, 2012

4:30 PM

City Hall - Basement Conf Rm A

I CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 4:35pm.

II ROLL CALL

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

Members absent: M Winborne

Others: Aaron Seagraves, Public Art Administrator; Margaret Parker; Mark Tucker; Ken Clein, Quinn Evans; Patrick Judd, Conservation Design Forum; Tom Partridge; Mary Morgan, Ann Arbor Chronicle

III APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Kotarski asked for two corrections to be made to the July minutes. There was discussion on whether other formats for minutes would work.

Moved by Kotarski, seconded by Reid; On a voice vote, the Chair declared the minutes approved with the corrections.

Approved

IV APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Reid asked that the project reports be discussed in the same order of the Public Art Administrative Report.

Added to the agenda item was a discussion of the Strategic Plan Task Force meetings (quadrants).

A motion was made by Reid, seconded by Kotarski, that the Agenda be approved with the additions. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

Approved

V PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tom Partridge: Said he was speaking on behalf of residents deprived of art education and quality of artwork. Asked the Commission to not to leave out subjects of human interest. He questioned the strategic plan that the commission has approved. He said art education is a much more valuable goal and said this city is known as a source of art. Asked that art be accessible and include human interest.

Margaret Parker: Offered to help and assist with the millage. She said the language of the millage is legal-istic, so the trick is to get across the voters to vote yes. She

said the chances are, if it is voted down, the funding for public art will end.

Mark Tucker: Said Festifools will be able to help in any way they can. He said the group is brainstorming free ways to get things done for art events and they are looking at doing them during football events.

VI ONGOING BUSINESS

DREISEITL PRESENTATION; Quinn Evans, Mr. Ken Clein; Conservation Design Forum, Mr. Patrick Judd: Mr. Clein stated he is willing to help on the millage. Gave an overview and update on the sculpture. Quinn Evans did not select the artist. Conservation Design Form was included in the artwork design team. Judd said his role was the technical issues. Clein said the process for Dreiseitl was not the normal way the artist would do things, because it requested to be done local. He said the project needed a public RFP process. Future Group was the prime subcontractor and CAE is responsible for the technology lights and software and hardware. He apologized that it is not done yet and said this is a custom piece of artwork. He said starting the water waited through winter and started up in the spring. They encountered difficulties with the water system. There have been draught conditions and the sculpture was running dry due to evaporation. Hydrologist's calculations for the evaporation were between 75 to 100 gallons a day. They found some cracks and repaired leaks. The artist design was intended to be a rain sculpture. It is a possibility to hook up a water supply. There are flow forms in the deck. The other thing that occurred was with the pumps that feed the top lights and the filters were getting clogged in the pumps. A single larger filter was added. He suggested the plaza should be cleaned more often to pick up the cigarette butts. It has been running since the pump was replaced. Additional LED lights are to be added and were a voluntary contribution. The lights will be addition at the base and at the bridge. Right now they are working on labeling the system for maintenance and then city staff will be trained. A two year warranty with CAE is included to maintain it.

Miller asked when the warranty will be started. Clein said it was to begin at the turn-over and it will cover two seasons. He said the sculpture will require annual maintenance.

AAPAC allowed for a public question and Mr. Partridge asked if the filters will need cleaning. Clein said yes, they are similar to those that are found in pools. Kotarski said the guest designed an awesome building and said the sculpture is a piece of world class art. He appreciated the local resources used for the project and appreciated the design team's participation in the review process so AAPAC could have more detail. He said there is a poetry to this artwork. He asked when the three holes that were drilled to channel the water from the roof and asked how much rain fall on the roof would fill the sculpture. Mr. Judd said the roof rainwater was also intended to go to rain garden. Clein said he was not sure of the amount of water from rain fall would be needed but said 800 gallons per minute is what the pipes can handle. He wasn't sure if an inch of rain fall is the amount. The holes were drilled in May or June and since then the water is coming from the roof.

Clein said it has been an honor to work on the sculpture even with the delay.

Brown said CAE has been asked by the Hands-On Museum to help develop an education project with the sculpture for the museum.

Judd said the sculpture might become part of a Masters project with U-M as a part of the storm water systems management courses.

PUBLIC ART ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Brown asked for a summary of the meetings for the master plan for public art in the county. Seagraves said the meetings were related to a grant proposal and there had been discussion of creating a county-wide inventory. Deb Polich said the master plan idea was to engage the county similar to the Arts Alliance's coordinated Cultural Plan had. She said there were several stakeholders who met including County Parks staff. She offered to share the grant proposal that outlines the timeline.

There were questions about the SOQ and RFP in legal review. Chamberlin said she had a conversation with City Attorney and was told that reviews will be expedited. Seagraves said couldn't give a timeline for the completion of the reviews but was happy with the progress.

There was discussion about the Allmendinger Park mural dedication for the mural. Gendron offered the planning for the dedication was a matter for the PR Committee. Brown volunteered to help the PR Committee with the dedication.

There were questions about the Dreiseitl sculpture sign and the timeline for its completion. Seagraves said Quinn Evans was designing a railing for the bridge upon which signs could be placed.

North Main task force: Brown said there were thirty people at the last meeting. A funding source that is being looked at for one of the sites the Task Force is reviewing. JJR facilitated a proposal meeting. She said it is a complicated project and a lot of the effort is focused on what can be done with the rail road track.

VII OLD BUSINESS

Strategic Plan, Fiscal Year 2013 to 2016: Chamberlin said that it would need to be revisited following a millage. She said this Strategic Plan outlines a direction. Kotarski wanted to focus on timeline for the objectives for the first two goals. He pointed out that there is a lot of work to be done between now and December. He asked if this was the appropriate timeline and asked what the annual events would be that AAPAC would attend.

Miller said the Townie Party would be one.

Reid asked that the Commission reconsider the timelines for the first two goals in the Strategic Plan.

Gendron pointed out the Commission does have the inventory for city art and it could meet part of one of the Strategic Plan's objectives.

Kotarski suggested moving the date for the first Goal A, Objective 1 to January 2013

Brown suggested moving the date for Goal B, Objective 1 to January 2013, also. She said final Task force members can be determined in January.

Strategic Plan was accepted unanimously with the two changes.

Motion made to accept the Strategic Plan with the changes, made by Brown, seconded by Derezinski. On a voice vote, the motion is approved unanimously.

Forest Avenue: Miller said it is a challenging site. The distance from the trees to the transformers is tight. Adding any element would be a difficult task. He said he can see the Commission working with the budget that has already been set aside. He said there are a lot of examples of transformers with beautiful murals on them and thought the possibility of painting them might want to be revisited

Brown asked what the Commission could do at the site if the Commission accepts the project. She said the Commission could refer this location into the Strategic Plan task forces for consideration by the task force.

Reid said the site is a mess. She reminded the Commission that the public does not approve murals on the transformers. She quoted the project form that, "This came out loud and clear at the public meetings."

Miller asked if AAPAC could hold a public meeting to explore what can be done.

Kotarski said the location excites him because it is visually boring, and plus it is a public gathering place. I like this project proposal because we can collaborate with a Parks and possibly a private entity. He said we might be able to offer more than the money than what has already been put aside for it. This is an opportunity to work with those groups and the artist can be challenged.

Brown asked if Kotarski would support that work on with this project as it is presented. Kotarski said the way it is described it doesn't excite him. Suggested they could take an artist-in-residence and have them coordinate a public art idea. Miller asked if the project would be released as an RFP. Seagraves said it would.

Chamberlin said it is an ugly site, but thought there is an opportunity to work with this amount of money and the place could brought to light. This site has been around the public art organizations forever. In the past a police officer advised that this shouldn't be a place to gather.

Kotarski offered discussion on if the Commission should we table this to next month and ask Parks staff to come back with a different proposal for the location.

Chamberlin said we could go forward with this and add money to it and produce an RFP for this as a project.

A Commissioner suggested a range between 10,000 to 35,000 to be added for the project.

Reid said she was going to vote against it but now sees that there is reason to support it.

Brown supported it and thought the Commission could work with this project.

Motion to approve this proposal submission as an AAPAC project, issue an RFP and match with public art dollars with a range set between 10,000 and 35,000, made by Kotarski, seconded by Miller. On a voice vote, the motion is approved unanimously.

Ellsworth and State, roundabout: Miller said the South State corridor study does not extend to this location. He said Ellsworth is very barren. Kotarski said Costco is now out there.

Derezinski described the current corridor studies and South State Street one of four. The first was Washtenaw. The second was State Street. He said the City did the community crawls and asked what the communities needed out there. He said Pittsfield Township is in the process of their master plan. He said Tim Horton's will be out there. He said the Roundabout was needed to incorporate the traffic. This area is one of the corridors and an entrance to the city.

Connie said this is similar to North main studies. She asked if the Commission thought this location was a legitimate area for public art.

Derezinski suggested that AAPAC could ask to have this added to the corridor study and it could be a collaborative project with the Planning Commission.

Commissioners discussed the budget amounts. Reid asked what pooled source funds to use.

Derezinski said he don't think the Commission needed to add a budget to the project right now. He said a lot of things could happen with the corridor study

Kotarski said the visibility of the location excites him. He said there is already more traffic. We could have the concrete poured in a more creative way. There is a possibility to partner, and rather than not put money to it we could leverage our money.

Derezinski said we can look at how to improve the beauty of streets. For example decorative bricks could be used and in Lansing they did a great job with a roundabout. People are asking for Roundabouts now. We have added two and they have improved the traffic. We could use brick work and other elements to make it look pretty.

Miller said the South Corridor study has a site plan that will have areas that will be good for art. He wondered if this location could tie together with the South State Corridor. It would be a good opportunity to time them together.

AAPAC allowed for a comment from the public and Deb Polich said there might be an opportunity to coordinate the project with Pittsfield Township.

Brown said she supports the project but would not want to place a dollar amount toward it right now. Chamberlin said we could vote this as a project. Gendron said she would support collaboration.

Kotarski said he would prefer that it not be voted down and would rather that the motion be amended. We like the idea and we see opportunities with it.

Miller wanted to tie the roundabout location together with the south state street corridor.

An amendment to the motion for approval was offered by Derezinski: To approve the location for public art and also to seek to collaborate with South State Street corridor study and other interested parties including but not limited to business and residential organizations in the area.

Motion to approve the location for public art and also to seek to collaborate with South State Street corridor study and other interested parties including but not limited to business and residential organizations in the area, made by Kotarski, seconded by Miller, amended by Derezinski. On a voice vote, the motion is approved unanimously.

Commission asked the Public Art Administrator to contact the potential collaborators and report back to the Commission.

VIII NEW BUSINESS

Annual Report: Chamberlin suggested one commissioner could work with Seagraves on editing the report. Reid volunteered.

Millage: Chamberlin said that the Commission cannot advocate for a millage outcome but we can educate about the millage. Chamberlin circulated a

Communications Plan used by the city for the Street's millage that was modified for Art in Public Places. She said that there is a group and people how are creating a campaign. The group is a separate entity from the Commission and that a public relations firm had agreed to help that campaign.

Seagraves told the Commission what could be done to provide information to the public using a millage Web page.

Brown said the Commission could craft a message.

Chamberlin said that a consistent message could be created by the Commission.

Gendron said the PR committee could work on crafting a message.

Derezinski said a citizens committee could be working on the millage. There would need to be people in the community to identify. The PR firms have experience in this.

Kotarski said he had asked if someone would be running this campaign. He said an outside manager should be running a campaign

Chamberlin said she thought there would be a lot of people who could get a campaign in order.

Task Force and Quadrants: Brown had circulated an overview of the Task Forces outlined in the Strategic Plan described how the process would work. She said the meetings would be an opportunity to gather public opinion and allow the public to speak to us about what they value and what they are looking for as a community. Brown said it was important to get across that the Commission is there to listen, to make qualitative and quantitative evaluations and to make art in the community. She said the Commission can begin a dialogue about what is important to the community. She said she thought the Commission could look for initiatives, review them and then to assign the dollars. She said we could place amounts of money in different projects depending on what is supported. She also offered that there isn't often a consensus opinion concerning art and where public art should be located.

Reid said the program that was given at the Annual Retreat would be good to have at these meetings.

Kotarski said he could do that. He said he thought the plan was brilliant. He said the Commission could go out there and educate and they could educate us first because we would listen first. We should have something that introduces it that could define what public art can be done.

The education could be a broad view of what public art could be: Brown said we do not decide what the art will be we would want to find an artist to start a conversation. It isn't a popularity test that will decide it.

Chamberlin said the idea of this presentation is important. She pointed to how the DDA has a story on bringing William Street alive. The DDA then asked for feedback on their work and they redid it. She said the Commission will have a unified presentation and asked what the time table would be to have something ready?

Brown suggested a start these meetings in October. Our presentation could inspire people as to what public art can do. She said that for each quadrant we can establish sites for public meetings. Seagraves will look at meeting locations.

Kotarski said he will draft a Power Point to present at these meetings.

Reid suggested reviewing the talking points at the next meeting.

Kotarski suggested posting the power point online and he offered incorporate other items other Commissioners into the presentation.

IX PUBLIC COMMENTS

Deb Polich asked the Commission to be prepared to answer the questions about the millage and offered to help with the millage.

Tom Partridge stressed the importance of art creation to educate the public. Art creation events can be held in places that would attract families and engage local artists. He said he had no doubt the millage would pass the question is how it will be used. Will art be humanized and will it be placed in a location where people can appreciate.

X ADJOURNMENT

At 6:59. Miller move to adjourn, second by Chamberlin. Approved

Adjourn

12-1142

Attachments: Art Administrator Report August 2012.pdf, Old Business Items August 2012.pdf, Annual Report w Cvr 2012.pdf, Dreiseitl Sculpture Report - Clein.pdf