



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

Wednesday, October 24, 2012

4:30 PM

City Hall - Basement Conf Rm A

I CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 4:40pm

II ROLL CALL

*Members present: M Chamberlin, B Miller, M winborn, J kotarski, T Deresinski
Members absent: C Gendron, RC Rozzolo-Borwn, W Simbuerger and T Reid
Others: Aaron Seagraves, Mary Morgan*

III APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*Moved by Derezenski, seconded by Kotarski; On a voice call vote, the Chair declared the minutes approved.
Approved as presented*

IV APPROVAL OF AGENDA

*A motion was made by Winborn, seconded by Derezenski, that the agenda be approved as presented. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.
Approved*

V PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

VI ONGOING BUSINESS

A. CHIARS REPORT -

The Chair presented two items. Chamberlin thank everyone for their involvement in the public input meetings and for the work involved. She said the process was going ahead slow and steady. Chamberlin reminded everyone that the Allmendinger Park mosaic dedication was on Sunday and asked for attendance. Thank everyone involved in the quadrant activity. And the work involved. Slow and steady process.

B. COMMISSIONER REPORT -

Kotarski reported on the Public Art Talks, public input meetings. He said three meetings took place. Kotarski said so far the meetings have achieved our purpose to make a presence in the community. He said the meetings have allowed the Commission to introduce ourselves to the community and let residents know we are making an effort. All the meetings were attended, some meetings more than others. He said one meeting did not take place though it was attended by one late arrival who objected to tax dollars being given to public art and he left with the feeling that we are willing to listen to that opinion. Kotarski said the meetings are a good start and

that it is an iterative process that will mean the Commission will go back to the community to get more feedback. He said the people who did attend enjoyed participating in the meetings.

Kotarski added he will appear on the Lucy Ann Lance Show and Damion on Design on Saturday. He was asked to appear and talk about public art. He said he will speak about the projects that are underway and the public art dedication. He said Mary Thiefels was invited to appear, also.

C. PUBLIC ART ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT -

Public Art Administrator presented information from the written report and answered questions about it.

The Justice Center project has an updated timeline and will be installed two to three months later—in March or April. The delay was due to availability of the fabricators.

There was discussion on the State Street Corridor and if it could be tied in with the Ellsworth and State roundabout project. Commission discussed what would be the next step for the Corridor Plan and if there would be an opportunity to tie it together. The Corridor Plan will mention public art at the roundabout and will suggest the possibility of linking public art along the Corridor to the artwork at the roundabout. Miller agreed to be the Public Art Commission Champion of the public art project at the Ellsworth and State roundabout.

Chamberlin suggested creating a visual database of examples of public art, particularly those examples of public art that are found within infrastructure.

Kotarski agreed with integrating art into city construction. It is cheaper.

Derezinski said the State Street Corridor Study is a transportation study and a zoning study. He said there have been several businesses involved with the study. The study has included an inventory of the property along State Street and many individuals have contributed. Further down the street, there are other governments involved. He said State Street is the second busiest corridor and suggested that the issue of signage could be addressed—it is confusing and they could become decorative.

Derezinski suggested setting up a meeting to look roundabout construction and fitting it with public art and looking at what it would results from the Corridor Study.

Public art the Kingsley and First rain garden:

Kotarski asked about the Kingsley and First RFP and had a question about the artist selection process asked Pool of finalists. He said typically few senior artists apply to RFPs because design work is required to apply and wanted to know why this process was being used for the public art project.

The Public Art Administrator said the RFP will not require designs from artist for the submission. Artists will be selected based on past work and based on interviews. This is being done to increase the collaborative efforts between the artist and the Landscape Architect. He said we are not selecting specific proposals for art.

Chamberlin said we are going to be selecting an artist, but it will not be based on what they have designed.

Miller asked if the landscape design was created.

Public Art Administrator said no, the design will be done with the artist.

Kotarski compared this to selecting an artist for an artist in residence which the selection of the artist is based on their services not on the art proposal and design. He said he is persuaded that issuing an RFP is the way to select artists who have not begun their career. He said using RFPs as the selection method will work well for small projects. He said otherwise the right way to select artists is from a pool of artists.

Public input:

Miller commented that there is an online forum provided by the City that Public Art could make use of for public input. He asked if it could be used for acquiring public input and asked the Public Art Administrator to investigate the use of the City Hall Open Forum for public art. He said that would be a way to gather input, for example when we did our survey at the start of the year we got hundreds involved.

The Public Art Administrator commented on the ability to interact with the attendees at the public input meetings was a great element.

Kotarski said we shouldn't just look at one survey. We can look at a lot of ways at getting feedback just one method isn't going to get the feedback we'd need. He also said that we could add the PowerPoint used at the public input meetings as a video on the website.

VII OLD BUSINESS

Dreiseitl sculpture sign

Suggested designs for the placement of the signage for the public artwork were emailed to the Commission prior to the meeting.

Winborne suggested there may be a safety issue at the location was addressed by the railing design.

Kotarski said the city is aware of any safety issue and know how to deal with it. He had tested how slippery it was and he couldn't slip. He said he agrees with the concept of allowing people to get into sculpture's water area.

Chamberlin said access to the water was an intended part of this sculpture. She said if there was a safety risk that was being addressed it should have been something that was looked at the start.

Derezinski said that he would suggest raising that question and putting it to staff.

Chamberlin asked the Public Art Administrator how the railing addition was this brought to his attention.

The Public Art Administrator said the railing was brought to his attention by the Facilities Manager.

Derezinski said he don't think this addition as viewed in terms of it taking away from the art. He said it might be just an attractive nuisance.

Winborne said the approval of the railing is not our call and said the Commission should be recognized as being involved in the decision.

Chamberlin said that the Commission's role is to protect the integrity of the artwork. The Commission is expected to be involved to maintain and to be involved with the aesthetic of the piece. Chamberlin said H. Dreiseitl had told her the ability for interaction with the piece was intended.

Derezinski said the Commission could get more information from the Facility Manager.

Chamberlin asked that a decision be made regarding the placement of the signage as looking at the two design options.

Kotarski said there is a risk that the safety additions are raised to address it. He approved the signage design option with the sign on the railing is the best option was opposed to the other option.

MOTION - To accept the design placing the signage on the railing was made by Kotarski, seconded by Winborne. On a voice vote Miller, Winborne, Kotarski and Derezinski were in favor, Chamberlin abstained from voting, and the Chair declared the motion carried.

Approved as presented

VIII NEW BUSINESS

Allmendinger Park mosaic dedication budget

Chamberlin asked to discuss an idea to use Aluminum Canoes as public art project.

Chamberlin said the concept was to use the old canoes that could be provided by the canoe livery as a community art project in some way. She said the canoes could be cut in half they would stand up and create a visual stand. Then they could be painted and added to and interpreted in an artistic way. She said artists could be invited to do this or they could be a community project. It was suggested that this project would engage the community in public art and that other entities could be partnered with. This is being suggested to being planning. A proposal could be developed later and we can decide what to do with it.

It was suggested that the idea didn't need a formal vote at this time and that consensus in support could be brought forward after the idea is further developed.

Chamberlin offered to connect with the people who have brought it forward and provide the Commission more information.

Commissioner Brown arrived later in the meeting and gave a report on North Main Vision Task Force.

Brown said a Mission Statement was completed and they recently had a report on the 721 property. There were several development scenarios for the property and some undeveloped scenarios. She said a big question was if it was on the flood plain. She said an option would be to naturalize it and make some kind of active corridor to build around it. She said there is Federal money available for the 721 Land, but they need a clear plan. Replacement of the street will be pushed to 2018 and the street will be examined for safety issues. Brown said the Task Force will not be the final designers and that the task is to develop a vision. She said the goal was to make it a great place to enter the city.

Derezinski said that the area was one of the four planning studies that the Planning

Commission recommended; the Planning Commission looked it and tried to figure out how to clean it up.

Derezinski said that changing the agenda format should be looked at as a policy to change. No action was taken.

MOTION: To amend the Allmendinger Park mosaic budget by approving an additional \$810 was made by Miller, seconded by Kotarski. On a voice vote all were in favor, the Chair declared the motion carried.

MOTION: To open the agenda and to add a discussion on a community project involving old aluminum canoes by Kotarski, seconded by Winborne. On a voice vote all were in favor, the Chair declared the motion carried.

MOTION: by Kotarski to move agenda section Commissioner Comments as item nine on the agenda going forward. Motion made by Kotarski, second to Winborne.

IX PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

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Attachments: October Reports 2012.pdf

at 6:02pm