



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, November 28, 2012

4:30 PM

City Hall - Basement Conf Rm A

I CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 4:30pm

II ROLL CALL

Members present: M Chamberlin, B Miller, M winborne, W Simbuerger, J Kotarski, C Rizzolo-Brown

Members absent: C Gendron

Others: Aaron Seagraves, Mary Morgan, Margaret Parker, Deb Polich and Ryan Stanton

III APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moves by Winborne, seconded by Brown: On a voice vote, the Chair declared the minutes approved.

*Kotarski asked Chamberlin why she abstained from voting at the October meeting. Chamberlin said she chose to abstain and by doing so did not voice a negative vote.
Approved as presented*

IV APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Winborne, seconded by Miller, that the agenda be approved as amended. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

*Miller asked that a discussion of A2 City Forum be added to the agenda.
Approved*

V PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Margaret Parker said there is a shortage of information about how projects work and at the same time there is a lot of time to do projects. she recommended making videos of public art projects at other cities. She would like to offer her services to get out more information to the public. She would love to do it.

VI ONGOING BUSINESS

A. CHAIR'S REPORT -

Chamberlin thanked Commissioner Reid's contribution for the time she was on the commission. She encouraged the Commissioners to see if there others who would like to serve. She thanked everyone who attended the City Council meeting.

Chamberlin thanked Commissioner Miller for the Art Run and thanked the Arts

Alliance for the B for Art campaign. She thanked the staff who helped out with the millage.

Chamberlin said the dedication of the public art piece at Allmendinger was terrific. Thanks for the Commissioners who helped with the Art Talks public meetings.

Chamberlin did hear discussion that at the City Council meeting next Monday there will be a vote to appoint a committee to look at different funding mechanism and review how a public art program could be best run at the city. She said she had offered Council the Commission's services to help discuss these ideas.

Chamberlin said there will be a fair amount of work in the next few months and we have time to make people aware of what we are doing. She said the percentage of the population that we can reach is small and we can work on developing better promotional materials.

B. COMMISSIONER REPORTS -

Brown is meeting with Huron Watershed Council to start a conversation about the River Up program to share information about public art.

Kotarski said he had a meeting with Susan Pollay of the DDA. He offered to facilitate interest in private public art installations with downtown businesses by chairing a committee to coordinate public art installations that are private with the city. He said he would like offer to join with other Commissioners to help with that effort.

Kotarski also wanted to acknowledge Margaret Parker's work to start this Commission and for her support with the Millage campaign. He said that 22,000 voted for the millage and that he appreciated her efforts.

Chamberlin asked if there he were acting as a Committee as a member of the Commission would the city be liable for private projects.

Kotarski said he would be the advocate for the Commission and the Public Art Administrator would be the point person. The Committee can help with requests that come in for private public art projects in the cases where there would be help that the Commission could offer.

Brown said it would be good to have more information about public art that might be privately produced.

Kotarski said a lot of the public art in city didn't happen because of our expenditures though it is due to our efforts that private projects came about. He said we could place those private public art projects on our website. Kotarski said part of the Commission's mission is to engage businesses to spend their own money on public art, for example, the Charles MCGee projects are due to the Commission's efforts.

Chamberlin said the Canoe project will be followed up on at later meetings. She said there are contacts that can be made for the project for a budget. She asked if the city can apply for grants that would cover the painting and installation of the Canoes in the city.

Miller said the South State Street Corridor study is being prepared and the study has been pushed out 60 days. He asked if there were any recommendations of people to volunteer for the Ellsworth and State roundabout public art project. The Commission recommended some businesses to contact and the recommendation was made to ask artists to be a part of the task force.

C. COMMITTEE REPORTS -

The Public Art Commission gave an overview of the Public Relations meeting and the updates that have been added to the website.

Brown said we are working diligently to put forward promotional ideas. She said the Commission should address public relation issues. She said that execution of the events can be improved and wanted to look at how we let people know about what we are doing. She said some of the problems with attendance were the locations for meetings. She said the Commission needs a tracking system to follow up on the work that we've done. She said a way to do that is to use the Project Tracking scheme.

Kotarski said that the Strategic Plan that we have is not clear to the public.

Brown said we need ideas on how we can get public communication together that is more cohesive so we don't have those gaps in communication.

Chamberlin said that the Public Art Talks meetings were an effort to elevate our communication with the public and that might not be the way to do it.

Brown said that Council people might not have been aware of the meetings in their quadrant. She said when the meetings were coordinated with community group meetings gave better results and the next steps need to be put in place and more direct.

Kotarski said if our vision is blurred then our leadership can take the initiative to address these things. He said we are citizen volunteers and we don't have adequate resources to administer this program. He said our process needs to be more open and we need to step up and be proactive.

Chamberlin asked if the vision is not clear and if the Commission agrees?

Miller said we started the discussion on projects and we went to the discussion of the promotion and that is a different track.

Kortarski said I believe we don't have that sharp vision to present to residents and to Council people.

Brown said there is limited public relations time and we can look at what is need to fill in these gaps and then we need to make clear how we go forward.

Chamberlin said there is a PR Committee and there is a chair and we should respect that.

Kotarski said we should have specifics to put forward. He asked if the Commission imagines Gateways, an art park. He asked if we imagine artwork in with schools and what do we imagine in 6months.

Miller asked if that was a description of the Strategic Plan.

Kotarski said what he is saying is that it is not clear what our vision is. He said he is voicing support for what Commissioner Brown is saying and for making clear what we are envisioning.

Chamberlin said the Commission is giving progress reports and newsletters and making the information available to the public.

Brown said what is needed is consistency between projects and how do we address it.

Miller recommended wrapping up our Strategic Plan and assigning responsibility to the plan.

Chamberlin said there is the Strategic Plan and it is a 3 year plan. She said there is the question of where do we place our efforts in the next 3 months. She said what is needed is a way to put this information together in a coherent form and build a case for a public art program.

Kotarski said we should just work as efficiently and dutifully as we can. He asked how we describe the artworks that we have here and that are ongoing in order to describe this as a cohesive program. He said that is the story that we need to be able to shape. He asked how do we explain these projects and how they fit together.

Winborne said we do have all the tools and we gotten away from it. He said there are things that have gotten lost, such as the Project Tracker. He said that we do to make sure that the effort of public art continues. He said we should have more than one meeting for the Strategic Plan.

Chamberlin said she wanted to do something more concrete with this issue. She said let's make sure that Council is informed and engaged to bring them up to date. She said the goal is to create awareness and visibility for public art. She asked if the Public Relations Committee is the best place for this or should we create and ad-hoc group.

Brown said that reviewing and building upon the tools that we have is appropriate. She said we are not in sequence as much as we could be.

Chamberlin said she would like to have the Public Relations Committee look at things that we can do. She said that objectives can be created to address issues of visibility with the PR Committee.

Brown said creating a strong narrative is something that we need to address would be something we can address with the PR Committee.

Kotarski said we can create a broad plan that states this is what we want to do and this is how we are doing that.

D. PUBLIC ART ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT -

The Public Art Administrator presented his report. He said he had met with city staff about this year's Capital Improvement Plan. The CIP will be presented to AAPAC in January

Kotarski stated that it was important that public art become part of the CIP projects early on.

The Commission asked the Public Art Administrator to define the timelines for the ongoing public art projects.

Kotarski asked if there was a budget amount set aside for the maintenance of the projects.

The Public Art Administrator said maintenance expenditures are paid for by the

pooled public art budget. He said an amount has not been set.

Kotarski said the value of the maintenance should come in with the proposals and they evaluated with the artwork proposals when they come in.

Chamberlin said there is a set of criteria that people go through and maintenance is a criterion.

Kotarski said an independent conservator's estimate must be part of the proposal in Toledo.

Winborne asked if there is a city department that is responsible for maintenance and asked if there is conflicting issues with maintenance what we need to do.

Winborne asked if the Dreiseitl sign and railing was going to put in place or if there were still decisions to be made concerning that.

E. NORTH MAIN STREET TASK FORCE -

Commissioner Brown gave an update on the North Main Street Task Force. She said there was a grant process underway for the city owned building. The Task Force is refining its vision of how to go forward. She said that the Task Force is looking at how to address access for the river usage.

The Commission decided to table discussion of the Strategic Plan's Quadrant Task Force meetings until the next meeting.

VII OLD BUSINESS

VIII NEW BUSINESS

The Commission decided to meet on December 19th instead of December 26th.

IX PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Margaret Parker addressed the Commission. She said there areas that could be Gateways and what is to be decided are which Gateways. She said the time to do that is during the Annual Plan. She said the annual plan should tie in with the CIP. She said that is how the projects can be tied into the CIP and that plan. She said it would benefit everyone to look at the CIP and determine when the projects can go in.

X ADJOURNMENT

At 6: 12pm