



City of Ann Arbor
Meeting Minutes
Ann Arbor Public Art Commission

Wednesday, October 23, 2013

City Hall, Basement Conference Room

4:30PM

CALL TO ORDER

4:35 pm

ROLL CALL

Members present: B. Miller-Chair, M. Chamberlin, J. Kotarski, C. Rizzolo-Brown, N. Zagar & A. Arder

Members absent: D. Akmon & M. Winborne-Vice-Chair

Others: Aaron Seagraves, Public Art Administrator; Craig Hupy, Public Services Administrator; Mary Morgan; Deb Gosselin, City Systems Planning.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by C. Brown, seconded by M. Chamberlin, that the Agenda be approved. Item was added to New Business to hold a retreat and community engagement committee by A. Arder. Chair and Commissioner reports moved to after New Business. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

OLD BUSINESS

Presentation of Capital Improvement Plan and Programming, by Deb Gosselin, City Systems Planning

Presentation of the CIP programming and planning process was shared with the Commissioners. Deb Gosselin presented a Powerpoint overview of the program.

Gosselin said the Commission should plan its next Annual Plan using two years of lead time for projects and include CIP projects in FY 16. Pooled money can be used for projects before FY 14-15.

Brown asked how flexible the budget must be within the Annual Plan for enhanced projects.

Gosselin said the budget needs to be as accurate as possible when presented to the Council.

Miller asked about the Enhanced Projects timeline for public art.

Hupy said, first, the project will need to be approved as a part of the Capital budget. Gosselin said the art component will become a part of construction contract.

Hupy said a stand-alone project will not a part of the construction contract. He described three thresholds for project approval: when the Capital project is approved; when a project is approved as a contract for construction; when the City Budget is approved in May by Council. He said it will be a solid project when it is budget for the year it is approved

Kotarski said the challenge is to attach a budget without an idea to projects. The budget for a project is shaped by the project description. He asked if at the time of the approval of Enhanced Projects the art component will need to have a general description when we identify the project.

Hupy answered if the project is six years out, just the fact that the Commission wants to target a capital project would be enough. By the time it is one year out, the Commission should have some general idea about the art. He added you have to present the recommended Enhanced Projects to Planning and to Council. Gosselin said when budgeting for that year, the Commission should be as close as possible on the budget and with an idea and general type or category of art.

Commission discussed what could be funded with the Enhanced Project budget and how artists and designers could be paired with the capital project's designer.

Miller asked if using scoring systems such as the one used with the CIP typically in use with city projects. Hupy said it is used with the CIP. Each category of criteria has their own scoring.

Gosselin suggested a survey among the Commissioners to come up with their own criteria categories and to apply priorities of projects for the purpose of planning future projects.

Hupy said the scoring amounts can change over time and they can be reexamined as has been done with the CIP process.

The Commission agreed to have a draft of a project prioritization model for review at the next meeting and Gosselin and Seagraves work on the draft.

Motion to approve the budget for a public art project at the South State Street roundabout and to continue the previously suspended project. Made by C. Brown, and seconded by J. Kotarski.

Brown said she was not ready to make a decision about this because the Commission needed more planning first, such as having a developed scoring system for projects.

Kotarski said that not having a big picture is a little unsettling, but having thought that it would take time to develop that. He said the description of the project gives enough detail to imagine a project, and it includes budgets for similar projects. He said he was comfortable attaching the budget range with the caveat that we need to have a big picture for all projects. He wanted to approve it as presented.

Brown said there may be other projects on the list that are of higher priority and this one would be done over them.

Kotarski thought that if the Commission were to approve it, he would assume that the Commission could later alter the budget or select something else.

Chamberlin said she was in favor of moving this project forward and added if we work on the scoring system the Commission would then have a more defensible way to select projects.

Motion to table the project the February meeting was made by J. Kotarski, and seconded by C. Brown. All were in favor.

Motion to approve the application of a grant for \$40,000 from the Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan for the Arbor Oaks Park/Bryant Neighborhood art project. Made by C. Brown, and seconded by M. Chamberlin. All in favor.

The Commission discussed the allocation of the Public Art Administrator's time to work on the grant and had questions about the amount of the funding. Hupy said he saw this project as a very valuable investment in the community.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution to hold a retreat. Made by M. Chamberlin and seconded by C. Brown. All in favor.

The Commissioners were in favor of holding a retreat and discussed the logistics of doing so. They spoke about the need to conduct an open and public meeting.

Arder spoke about what the purpose of the meeting would be. Thought it would be better to hold a meeting with less business items and have a meeting it might be to figure out who we are and what we are doing. She thought that getting to know our backgrounds would be helpful to begin planning projects. Kotarski said he saw this as a way to compare projects and to get our priorities straight. Added it might be useful to have the Administration present to us how to work within the new Ordinance.

Resolution to establish a community engagement. Made by C. Brown, second by M. Chamberlin

Kotarski said a form of community engagement already exists; we take the art proposals to different community organizations as community outreach. He suggested specific ideas could be presented to the Commission as ideas for community engagement.

Arder said she was recently at the Michigan Nonprofit Association conference. When there, she found that there is a misunderstanding of what public art is and also there can be a heightened understanding. She suggested including an educational component with any art we install and thought it would be good to have some programming. Her proposal is to figure out a way to engage the community to enjoy placemaking and thought having a group develop ideas is the best way to initiate programs.

Kotarski suggested that the group could submit to the Commission formal proposals for public engagement and programming so that the Commission will know the ideas that forthcoming from for that purpose.

Chamberlin said the Commission can become more formal by creating a project plan for public engagement programs and document what happens. There will then be a record what occurred for the project with documentation.

Miller said he is in favor of anything you done to engage the public with more public art ideas.

Commissioner Arder withdrew the resolution in favor going forward with specific proposals for public engagement and programming, as discussed.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair wanted to commend the way projects are moving forward, such as the Canoe Imagine, this is great way to shape projects moving forward. Chair met with artist David Zinn concerning a project at Elementary school.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Arder mentioned having a meeting with the Clean Energy Coalition about the Bike Share project. They met about how to develop ideas about how to add an artistic element. Miller said one idea is to include signs and information how to move through traffic on bikes.

Zagar said a new mural between Fourth and Fifth was going up.

ONGOING BUSINESS REPORTS

Argo Cascades

There were questions about the timeline for public input and the process of how feedback would be collected and presented. The Commission saw this as a way to engage and educate the public. Plus, a way to provide the Selection Panel move valuable information to base their recommendation.

Jewett Memorial

Attended the Saturday Farmers Market to present the project to the vendors to raise awareness of the project.

Canoe Imagine Art

Asked to put a hold on the project website. Chamberlin said the project is different than the standard model for projects, but didn't want it to be delayed and not allow it to be the most successful project. Waiting for the RFP approval. Meetings with the public schools to be included with the project.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

6:54 pm

Motion to adjourn made by M. Chamberlin, seconded by J. Kotarski. All were in favor.