



City of Ann Arbor
Meeting Agenda
Ann Arbor Public Art Commission

Wednesday, January 23, 2013

City Hall, 4th Floor

4:30PM

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 4:36pm.

ROLL CALL

Members present: M Chamberlin, B Miller, W Simbuerger, J Kotarski & M Winborne

Members absent: C Rizzolo-Brown & C Gendron

Others: Aaron Seagraves, Public Art Administrator; Mary Morgan, Ann Arbor Chronicle; Linda Tenza; Iris Lehmann

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by M Winborne, seconded by B Miller; on a voice vote, the Chair declared the minutes approved.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Linda Tenza:

She introduced a project proposal to the Commission. She said her family is involved with the Farmer's Market and son is involved in the Public Market Committee. Her public art proposal involves creating panels that would be displayed in the awning of the Market. The panels would depict food that is organic and other food related topics in picture form on the top of the Market's awnings. The inspiration is the sections at the Sistine Chapel. The project would make the Market area a tourist's attraction and the project could have the schools involved. The material could be hard or cloth and have spotlights on the murals. A website could be created and solicit funds for the project might be possible. Developing the project with the help of Sarah DeWitt, Farmer's Market manager.

Chamberlin asked if the AAPAC could facilitate the project and asked if the proposal meets the project process checklist.

Miller said the public art program has a pool of muralists and the Commission could approve this as a project. A task Force could be created to project.

Chamberlin asked if this project meets all the elements that would qualify as a project that the commission would evaluate to meet the criteria as a project.

Kotarski said the challenge would be to connect this project to the nexus of the funding and said the pooled funds with Parks could work. He said other ways to raise funds such as was suggested was an option.

Linda Tenza asked if the funding wasn't through the Commission, would the Commission be involved.

Chamberlin said AAPAC would then be facilitator of the project. She said the project would need to be evaluated by the Commission first.

Simbuerger said the next step will be deciding if this will be a project that we could take on and then you could serve on the Task Force. She said there might be other possibilities to raise funds outside of the public art funding. She offered the Commission could ask proposals from our list of artists.

Kotarski said it would be appropriate to talk to more people and to gain synergy around the project.

The Commission voiced support for the project.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chamberlin provided a report. She said the issue on the Justice Center funding was clarified and said that the percentage for art was in the budget for the construction project and not in the public art funds. She also gave an overview of possible use of the City's A2 Open City Hall.

The summary of the public art funds was examined and discussed. The Justice Center funds were denoted as separate from the existing 1% funds available.

Chamberlin said that a program with CTN was in the works. There would be a seven minute interview with Margaret Parker. She spoke with the producer about the plans for the production of programs, such as Stadium Bridges project presentations with artist proposal presentations.

Chamberlin presented idea of the Canoe Art Project. She said there is a small group who has met including Cheryl Saam, the Public Art Administrator, the Executive of the Main Street Area Association and the Executive of the Convention and Visitors Bureau. The project would use the replaced canoes that the city owns and make them available to artists. They would become a

canvas or a media for art. Artists and community groups can be involved with the project. She said Main Street has 13 locations that could be available. A fiduciary is being looked at to coordinate the financial fundraising. She said the Public Art Commission could serve the project to give the canoes to artists to create a great art piece.

Kotarski what the Commission's role would be and if this process would be similar to the process for the Farmer's Market project.

Chamberlin said right now it is project that she is working on outside of the Commission. She thought the Commission's role could be to commission do a major art piece that includes recycled canoes. She said it could be included as a possible project to include at the Argo Cascades location.

Kotarski said the Commission should treat projects that we are working the same way that we treat projects that are just coming in the door.

Chamberlin reported on the City Council Task Force. She said the messages that they have heard is that full time staff is needed. She said there isn't consensus about the changes to the ordinance. She said there is debate about what should be included in the CIP as art and including the art into the construction of the projects is another item being debated. She said doing so would ease the tracking of the public art funds. She added that everyone agrees that we ought to fund public art but there are various ideas about how to do it.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Miller said he would like to continue the Art on Loan idea and said the S. State Street plan will be released. He asked about the status on the Forest Ave. Plaza project.

The Public Art Administrator said the plaza will be redone with concrete as a non-public art project and after the budget for the concrete is completed Amy Kuras report back to the Commission including a public art project at the location.

PUBLIC ART ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

The Public Art Administrator announced that he met with Facility Supervisor at the Ann Arbor Senior Center. The Senior Center has opportunities for local artists to display their artwork and contacted the Public Art Administrator to ask if there were ideas that could assist in promoting the opportunity with local artists.

Chamberlin said one of the groups that would have interest in art exhibitions are the Women's arts group. The Arts Alliance does have opportunities that

they include on their site. She said this is the kind of thing that we would like to promote.

Public Art Administrator will send out a blurb to local groups and will update our website.

Public Art Administrator gave updates on the public art projects.

Justice Center:

Kotarski asked what percent of the project's budget is sourced regionally and asked the Public Art Administrator to inquire with the artist.

East Stadium Bridges:

Public Art Administrator announced that the Selection panel met and reviewed the submissions. He said the Panel has come down to a list of seven people and interviews will set up on Skype. The next step is to complete a scoring rubric the interview.

Questions were asked about the timeline for the project and the projected date of installation for the artwork. The Public Art Administrator reported the project could begin installation before the end of the year.

OLD BUSINESS

Review of the SOQ for Public Artists

Chamberlin asked why there was a time limit for eligibility on the application and asked why we are only including two years.

Kotarski said the submission information would be old after two years.

Miller said that it seems like a short time frame, but indicated that we can refresh the list every two years.

Kotarski asked if having a time limit was similar to what other communities do.

Miller said he would like the Public Art Administrator to look at other communities for examples of how pre-qualifying artists it works at other communities and if they have similar time limits. He proposed tabling it to focus on the timeline to look at how other cities.

Motion to table the approval of the SOQ to next month to research how long other cities pre-qualified artists for projects made by Miller, seconded by Kotarski. Motion approved.

Review of the design of the Dreiseitl sculpture sign

Miller stated that he thought the design contained a lot of information.

Kotarski said he would tend to agree with you, but thought the Commission was delving into the weeds a bit too much.

Winborne said the sign should be communicated simply and it needs to be more symbolic. He suggested the sign could be linked to our website and along with other signs you would be able to make a connection with the public art in the city.

Kotarski said the text should be edited and thought the Dreiseitl comment can be reduced.

Simbuerger thought the graphics should go away and the diagram should be the graphic alone she thought the sign should be titled. Suggested more contrast between the dark water and the light water to show the direction of the water flow.

Miller thought the two dimensional aspect does not convey the sculpture and giving it perspective would improve it.

Chamberlin thought it could be edited to be made clearer. She offered to contact Quinn Evans to go over the recommendations.

Kotarski said the purpose of this sign is to understand the concept of the sculpture suggested that the sign could route them to the website.

Kotarski asked if the Commission is in agreement that the graphic sign needs improvement. The Commission did agree unanimously.

Upcoming Public Engagement meetings

The Commission reviewed an outline of the step-by-step process of the artist selection process and Public Engagement meetings coordinated with that process.

Simbuerger said that the Commission needed to review the Public Engagement outline because it hasn't been visited in several years we haven't had many projects. She suggested that for future projects the Task Force refer to these documents at the start of the planning process for the project.

Chamberlin said the outline of the artist selection process for the project can be used as an outline for other projects.

Simbuerger agreed that it should be used and be driven by Public Art Administrator.

Kotarski said he agreed that it should be driven by the PA Administrator.

Miller suggested that a database can be created that contains all our processes.

Kotarski said we should situate that with the Administrator and stay current with best practices. He said the Commission is creating the processes and this Public Art Administrator should know the processes.

Simbuerger said we have developed these processes and we should use them. She said the Commission has now developed the public engagement process because we didn't have a process for public input.

Kotarski said that institutional memory was lost because we didn't have an administrator.

Winborne said the Commission needs to follow the way to do things the way Ann Arbor does things and then we can look to at other ways and add them to ours.

Kotarski said the outline states that we pay for artists to travel. He said he is challenged by the way it is stated. The intent was to make the payment equal, but travel is reimbursed separately.

Simbuerger what we did is gather feedback from city staff. She said this is not something that needs to be applied to all projects but can be followed for Stadium Bridges.

Kotarski said he didn't see why a public camera feed of the art presentations needed to be turned off.

Simbuerger said presentations are not an open meeting.

Kotarski said he sees this as an open meeting. He said as he understood it meetings could be closed particular contracts then there could be an Executive Session.

Chamberlin said she was aware of councils that have had a similar organization.

Miller said he understood the meetings would be considering a construction contract and this wouldn't be an open meeting.

The Commission decided they will list concerns and forwarding them to the staff to address the questions.

Simbuerger reviewed the outline with the Commission.

Kotarski asked if the city has brought in consultants for selection of other projects.

Simbuerger said during the presentation of the design proposal, we want the artists to come in person and we want them to come for a second visit.

Miller said he wants to include more money for the honorarium.

Kotarski said artist visits are an educational component that the artist is a part of.

Simbuerger stated that the outline address engaging the public and sets-up a meeting with the selection of the artist. She said we want to provide a feedback document that will be given to the public at the meeting to be given to the Selection Panel.

Miller said we would take the feedback from the public to the Selection Panel for their consideration.

Simbuerger said she thought there has to be a safe space for the Selection Panel to have discussion.

Kotarski said the vote will take place in public and he didn't see any reason to not have a public meeting.

Winborne said meetings with charter school allow for executive session and conversation will be held in closed session.

Kotarski said we are under intense criticism that we are making decisions in a closed group and by doing this we are egging this on.

Chamberlin said that by following this outline, we are opening the process a lot by doing this.

Simbuerger there is a needed to have opportunity for the Selection Panel to deliberate.

Kotarski said the Commission would need to identify why we are using the Selection Panel and explain it appropriately.

NEW BUSINESS

ANNUAL PLAN:

Public Art Administrator gave an overview of the recommended process to create the Annual Plan for Fiscal Year 2014

Winborne asked if the Plan would change depending on what will happen with the City Council's actions.

Chamberlin said their decision could change the amount of funding or do nothing. She said the one judgment that they have come to is deciding that the process is fin and there was a person experienced with public art who attended verified that.

Chamberlin suggested that the Public Art Administrator meet with her to help plan the Annual Plan process.

OFFICER ELECTIONS:

Kotarski ask the current chair to continue until other Commissioners were added to the Commission and suggested to delay the election of officers until we have a full body of Commissioners.

Chamberlin said that the bylaws place the elections in January and thought the Commission needed stick to them.

Winborne suggested the Commission act on the election at the next meeting when there is a larger turn out and add this item to that agenda

Motion to delay the election officers to the next meeting in the absence of a full commission. Made by Chamberlin, seconded by Miller. Motion approved.

Adjournment:

7:14