



**City of Ann Arbor**  
**Formal Minutes - Draft**  
**Ann Arbor Public Art Commission**

301 E. Huron St.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
<http://a2gov.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

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Wednesday, June 10, 2020

7:00 PM

Electronic Meeting

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This meeting will be broadcast live on CTN Cable Channel 16, ATT Channel 99, and online at [a2gov.org/watchCTN](http://a2gov.org/watchCTN)

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**ROLL CALL**

**ROLL CALL**

**Yeas:** 7 - Kotarski, Esau, Chair Buck, Vice Chair Mexicotte, Copi, Wier-Leonard, and Grillet

**Nays:** 0

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Moved - Commissioner Kotarski - Seconded by Commissioner Esau**

**20-0387** Ann Arbor Public Art Commission Meeting Minutes - March 2020

**Attachments:** AAPAC CIP Enhancements 2017-2026 Updated Summary Feb 2020.pdf, Developer Work Group Report - March 2020.pdf, Special Projects report 6-10-20-RV .pdf, Allen Creek Public Art Locations.pdf, 2019-1004 First Liberty Street.pdf

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**REPORT FROM CHAIR**

*\*Hope everyone is well under our current circumstances. Let's believe in the healing power of art. Use this time to reflect and move forward to do better things within our community; which is needed right now. Remember to keep art in the forefront of the communities mind during these tough times.*

*\*Commission received a \$50k donation which was placed in the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation Fund. Placement within the AAACF endowment will allow the commission to use the interest that earned, which will grow each year and can formalize how the interest could be used. Commission also interested in changing the language of the charter to broaden it beyond maintenance to provide other opportunities for the commission to use these funds in the future. Money can be dispersed in the Spring or the Fall and the commission must identify the specific purpose of its use.*

*Commission to draft language for sharing with City Council and AAACF for final approval;*

- ~ Current Ordinance language allows for recommendations re disbursement of public art funds currently allow commission to acquire, produce, install, alter, relocate or remove public art*
- ~ Raise funds, interact with donors and foster partnerships*
- ~ Promote awareness of public art*
- ~ Keep the language broad and flexible*
- ~ Develop a two-year budget cycle - fund balance - collaborate with other groups for matching funds and outside sources*

**Presented**

**NEW BUSINESS***Importance of Art & Culture for a Full Life*

*We are currently going through unusual times, including what's been dubbed 'The Great Pause' where many of us have had an opportunity to stop and think more broadly about how we'd like the world to look when we emerge from the pandemic, as well as the nationwide and even global anti-racist protests since the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis.*

*As a response to this time of openness to change, this seems like a good opportunity to reach out to other art related organizations to discuss whether there are new ideas, or things we could do jointly to improve the status of artists and the arts in Southeast Michigan, which would in turn positively impact public art in Ann Arbor.*

*Since AAPAC has a responsibility to the public to demonstrate its commitment to the concerns of the public, I would like to propose a committee to reach out as soon as possible to other organizations in the Greater Detroit area and/or Southeast Michigan to see if there is interest in convening a conference (possibly virtual) for the exchange of ideas along these lines. - Commissioner Grillet*

*Approved. Public Art Commission supports and approves this initiative to be assigned to the Special Projects Working Group to work to identify the role, topic and purpose of public art and social change, with a report back to all for review.*

**Moved - Commissioner Copi - Seconded by Commissioner Kotarski**

**OLD BUSINESS**

*Council Policy Update - Request to City Council to create a policy change for a public art funding line item for approval. A need exists for this item to be shared with Council in the hope of moving forward in the future. Commissions' current budget process still allows for money within the Public Services to fund approximately \$15k a year for the City Gallery as well as a small amount of for staffing.*

*Councilmember Ramlawi will follow-up with the City Administrator for an update and process moving forward.*

**Approved as presented**

**REPORT FROM STAFF**

*\*Allen Creek Project Update - Separating the art from the construction so that there is no conflict as the two move forward. There is still a location reserved on the retaining wall and the design can occur separately after the heavy construction moves out.*

*\*DDA Projects - Money has been allocated from the Arts Alliance to work with DDA. Understand channel of communicate to make certain the Public Art Commission remains in the loop for any upcoming projects throughout the City. Invitation for the DDA to attend an upcoming meeting to bring the commission up to speed on where we are with City projects that could possibly include public art.*

*\*Request for City Attorney to review Public Art By-Laws that currently prohibit commissioners from participating in calls for art. Current City ethics clause prohibits a commissioner from bidding or proposing work for the City to participate in any of the chains of approval or review of that work. Commission request clarification of the language within the By-Laws with additional consideration to remove holding the commissioner out for a year should they choose to answer a call for art. Councilmember Ramlawi appreciates this update and will contact the City Attorney for an update on how best to move forward. Members that serve on the Public Art Commission as advisory members and as local artists should not be penalized for continuing to showcase their creativity throughout the city because they are members of the Art Commission.*

**Approved as presented**

**20-0819** AAPAC June - Reports from Work Groups

**Attachments:** Special Projects report 6-10-20-RV\_.pdf, Proposal for a Policy Change to Designate an Annual Funding Line Item for AAPAC.pdf

*Donations and Art Placement Work Group - Recent donation may allow the commission to do some fundraising. Donation to the City go into the general fund and there are no restrictions on its use. AAACF ensures that donations for art will end up within an art project - tax exempt and credit is given - requires no acknowledge from the City and how it is used - allows a deduction on the givers taxes. Staff will review with City Attorney and Finance re the possibility of Public Art Commission receiving smaller donations within a designated City fund.*

*Leadership Forum - Met briefly and a list of items was prepared; more discussion is needed.*

*Nominating and Membership Work Group - Two potential candidates selected to move forward to Mayor Taylor and City Council for approval.*

*Special Projects Work Group - Desire to reinstate the Golden Paint Award and updated documents have been submitted for your approval. Anyone can make a nomination - collected over a year - three panel judge and vote must meeting the criteria for judging purposes. Peggy and Sophie will co-chair a subcommittee to move this forward and report back at the August meeting.*

*Motion to approve committee recommendation to reinstate the Golden Paintbrush Award.*

*Youth Outreach Work Group - Congratulations to all the winners and the City Clerks office for all the hard work! Remember to vote in November! #A2VOTES.*

*\*Sylvia DeBord, Bach Elementary - Grades K - 6 Division Winner*

*\*Marcela Passos, Pioneer High School - Grades 7 - 12 Division Winner*

*\*Eric Oppitz, Ward 5 - Citywide Division Winner*

*Councilmember Ramlawi is pleased to see the commission back together and appreciates all the hardwork. An enjoyable commission to participate on.*

*Sophie pleased to see new art throughout the City. The Shaky Jack wire sculpture has been moved to a display window after the store closed.*

*John says, "bravo" to the "I VOTED" campaign.*

**ADJOURN**

*8:47pm*

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