



City of Ann Arbor
Meeting Minutes
Ann Arbor Public Art Commission

Wednesday, January 29, 2014

City Hall, Basement Conference Room

4:30PM

CALL TO ORDER

4:35 pm

ROLL CALL

Members present: B. Miller-Chair, J. Kotarski, KT Tomey, N. Zagar M. Winborne-Vice-Chair & A. Arder

Members absent: C. Rizzolo-Brown & M. Chamberlin

Others: Aaron Seagraves, Public Art Administrator; Craig Hupy, Public Services Administrator; Mary Morgan; several Skyline students and parents: Nick Angerman, Dominik Valentino, Jasmine Schuler, Kevin Zhang, Chuck Billups, Phoebe Billups.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by J. Kotarski, seconded by M. Winborne; On a voice vote, the Chair declared the minutes approved.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by M. Winborne, seconded by A. Arder, that the Agenda be approved. Item was added to New Business to add discussion about the Public Art Program. On a voice vote, the Chair declared the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

OLD BUSINESS

Evaluate capital improvement projects as potential public art projects

Commission evaluated several projects in the Capital Improvement Plan using the scoring rubric developed at previous meetings. Ten projects were proposed by the Public Art Administrator as potential projects and descriptions of the project locations were prepared. Five of the ten projects were evaluated using the criteria at the meeting.

The Commission scored the following projects and agreed on scores, using the seven criteria, for them. They included: street stamping, street access covers, art for the Springwater subdivision, and art for Main Street and Plymouth Road corridors.

Commissioners discussed the difficulty in scoring projects based only on the information that was presented to them. Winborne said there needs to be more information to evaluate all the criteria. Kotarski said the projects can be presented as proposals with artwork examples. Seagraves said that it is difficult to define the projects this early and that Task Forces work on fleshing out projects that are selected. Hupy said at this point the Commission should be examining locations or types of projects rather than specific art. The Commission discussed if having examples of artwork associated with possible locations would be appropriate to use when scoring, or if that would diminish the creative work the artist would provide.

Arder suggested scoring the other projects by focusing on the information that could be evaluated at this time. The Commission discussed the definitions of some criteria and which would be more appropriate to use when evaluating and planning locations for art. Tomey asked if eliminating several criteria and focusing on three might be the best approach for their evaluation at this initial stage. She also suggested using a scoring system that measures a neighborhood's walkability as one criterion. Miller suggested continuing to work on the evaluation model, but present what has been accomplished to Council. Hupy agreed that this will be an ongoing process of modification at that start. He also asked that more supportive materials would be offered to the Commission to assist them when scoring project locations. The Commission also discussed creating a map of public art that can be shared online, so that it can be used to find locations where public art is absent.

Akmon suggested postponing the evaluation of the remaining improvement projects to future meeting and to evaluate 3 per meeting. There was discussion that criteria needed to be divided into a first step evaluation of possible locations for art and then a second step with separate criteria to evaluate art concepts at the location.

Commission moved to table further evaluation of capital improvements as potential enhanced projects to future meetings. Made by D. Akmon, and seconded by M. Winborne.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of the Public Art Annual Plan 2015

The Commission discussed the draft of the Public Art Annual Plan for 2015. Kotarski said the draft represents the best plans the Commission has put together and shows work. Seagraves proposed including enhanced projects to the plan that were evaluated with the highest scores earlier in the meeting, including: Street Access covers, art at street crossings and sidewalk stamping. Kotarski said that the suggested budget amounts needed to be researched.

Seagraves offered to include cost estimates for the budgets. Miller suggested approval of Plan with the enhanced projects included, plus incorporating the changes to the budget amounts. Winborne said the Commission could designate a Commissioner to work with the Public Art Administrator to finalize the draft of the plan before sending it to Council. Kotarski offered to assist with the revisions.

Motion for the Commission to approve the draft of the annual plan with revisions approved by Commissioner Kotarski. Made by M. Winborne, and seconded by A. Arder.

Review Clean Energy Coalition proposal for the inclusion of an artist with the Bike Share program team, for the creation of map designs posted at the stations and related graphics for the bikes and bike stations

The Commission reviewed the written proposal from the Clean Energy Coalition to include an artist to provide at the new bike share program and the bike stations. Commissioners discussed how the art would be applied and if a local artist could be selected. They also discussed the funds that could be used for the project and if they should support the project without funding. Arder asked if a more detailed proposal should be reviewed. The Commission also discussed motioning to support the project is an endorsement, which they resolved to not do as a Commission in 2012. The Commission determined that more information was needed to support the project, especially to provide a commitment of funds for the project.

Commission moved to table the proposal from the Clean Energy Coalition. Made by N. Zagar, and seconded by M. Winborne.

Discussion on the changes to the Public Art Program

Commissioners held a discussion about actions at the January 21st City Council meeting and how the Commission will function without the pooled funding for public art. Miller said the pooled funds remaining were intended to provide money to transition the program. Hupy said the elimination of the public art funding mechanism last year didn't provide for administration of the art program. He said administration will be accounted for in the budget appropriation for fiscal year 2015. Miller said figuring out how to fundraise and how house partnerships to do so is an ongoing concern. He said we have projects that are doing this and are great examples. Zagar said that there was a lot of uncertainty and said a clear indication about the future of the program is necessary to continue art projects for the city.

Election of Officers

Nominations from the floor were Bob Miller for Chair and John Kotarski as Vice-Chair. There were no other nominations. Paper votes were cast by the Commission. Vote tally was conducted by M. Winborne and A. Seagraves.

Miller, as Chair, and Kotarski, as Vice-Chair, were unanimously elected as Commission officers.

ADJOURNMENT

7:28 pm

Motion to adjourn made by D. Akmon, seconded by J. Kotarski. All were in favor.