

Public Arts Board

Minutes – September 21, 2016

Meeting called to order at 6:34 PM

A) Roll Call –

Members Present: Barbara Heller, Maggie Mettler, Linda Wells, Anne Ritchie, and Eva Suchara (Student Representative)

Members Absent: Phyllis Klinger, Mary Roberts

Administration: Sean Campbell, Assistant City Planner

Audience Member(s): Cindy Rose (The Community for Barnum Park)

B) Approval of Minutes – December 16, 2016; April 20, 2016

Motioned by Maggie Mettler, seconded by Linda Wells, to approve as amended the December 16, 2016 minutes.

Yeas: 4 Nays: 0

Barbara Heller cited a number of revisions to the April 20, 2016 minutes and therefore the board did not approve them. Revised minutes to be reviewed at the October 19, 2016 meeting.

C) Unfinished Business

“Sound Heart” Sculpture by Jay Lefkowitz

Sean Campbell provided a status report on the Jay Lefkowitz, “Sound Heart,” a sculpture donated to the City by a Birmingham resident. Following the April 20, 2016 meeting, Mr. Campbell contacted the project manager for the Kroger in downtown Birmingham to announce that the Public Arts Board was interested in using their plaza at the corner of Woodward and Maple as a location for the piece. Upon reviewing the sculpture, the project manager indicated Kroger’s approval of the proposed installation via email.

Mr. Campbell further reported that a donation and installation contract had been finalized by the City Attorney. Once all necessary departments have reviewed and signed off on the project, the contract and sculpture would be forwarded to the City Commission to be approved.

Gary Kulak Sculpture

Barbara Heller provided background on Gary Kulak's sculpture, "Pride," to bring the Board and audience up to speed on the subject. At this time, a commitment to finance a concrete footing for the sculpture at the proposed location in Barnum Park is still an outstanding item. While The Community for Barnum Park expressed a commitment to pay for a portion of the concrete pad in a letter from January 2015, no further action or correspondence had been made since.

Cindy Rose, in behalf of The Community for Barnum Park, was in attendance to provide further information on the concrete pad. She reported that the group selected the 9' diameter circular pad option for the sculpture as it was allow for rotating sculptures in the future should "Pride" be removed from the site. She remarked that after speaking with Building Department it was suggested that the original proposed 16" depth was too shallow for this sculpture and that it should be increased to at least 42". She also added that the group had not received a quote from the City for the construction of the pad and therefore has no idea as to how much of the groups funds will be spent.

As there was further uncertainty about who would provide a quote on the cost of this project and who the responsible staff person is to confer with, it was recommended that Mr. Campbell clarify this information with DPS and the Building Department. Barbara Heller pointed out that the concept of a permanent sculpture in Barnum Park is supported by the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. In order to achieve this vision, the Public Arts Board would like to establish a partnership between the Community for Barnum Park and for the City to split the costs in half to pay for a circular concrete pad.

Motioned by Maggie Mettler to recommend that in accordance with the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, the City partner with Community for Barnum Park to split the costs fifty-fifty for the construction of a permanent concrete circular pad in the proposed location of Barnum Park and to have Engineering or the Building Department advise as to which depth go with for the pad. Seconded by Linda Wells.

Yeas: 4

Nays: 0

It was further requested that Mr. Campbell obtain a quote for the construction of a 9' diameter 42" deep circular pad and report updates on this matter during the October 19, 2016 meeting.

CityScapes

Ms. Heller also reported that the CityScapes program through Cultural Council of Birmingham-Bloomfield (CCBB) is willing to create a loan agreement for Gary Kulak's sculpture. This raised the point that on-loan sculptures should not come through the City as it shifts the insurance costs onto the donor/artist. CityScapes would not only help out with Gary Kulak's sculpture, but also the installation of Richard Rollins' sculpture, "Red Steel #14" which has been an inactive project due to the issue of insurance.

Cindy Rose questioned this as an option as the Board already approved the sculpture with Gary Kulak paying for insurance. Barbara Heller remarked that Mr. Kulak would go either way with insurance and that she would follow up with CCBB to confirm whether CityScapes would relieve him of this expense. Ms. Heller also added that the CityScapes contracts need to be renewed as they expire after 18 months. The money generated from the fundraising events would be allocated from CCBB to the CityScapes program to cover the insurance costs for loaned sculptures.

Motioned by Linda Wells to have both the Kulak and Rollins sculptures come to the City through CityScapes. Seconded by Maggie Mettler.

Yeas: 4

Nays: 0

The Board would also like to inform Mr. Rollins that they are still interested in his piece and that there is a possibility that CityScapes would cover the insurance of his piece.

Birmingham Chalk Project

Barbara Heller provided an update on the Birmingham Chalk Project. She remarked that the proposed event would require raising \$5,000 for an artist and to provide chalk for attendees. The event would take place in Shain Park in 2017. Ms. Heller reported that the Detroit Zoo held a similar event and that the Birmingham Chalk project could follow a similar format.

D) New Business

Cultural Council of Birmingham-Bloomfield/Public Arts Board December Fundraising Event

Barbara Heller reported that the dates for the poker tournament fundraiser are December 21, 2016 through the 24th. Members of the board questioned whether these days would be difficult due to the holidays. Ms. Heller remarked that the 21st – 24th

would be preferable over the alternative option of the 25th through the 28th. The event is to be held at Sindibads located at 350 E 14 Mile Rd, Madison Heights, MI.

Birmingham Bloomfield Cultural Arts Award Presentation

Ms. Heller reported an overview of the upcoming Birmingham Bloomfield Cultural Arts Award Presentation that will take place on Friday, September 30, 2016, 6:00 – 8:00 PM at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center. The Cultural Arts Award is a partnership between the Cultural Council of Birmingham-Bloomfield, the Birmingham-Bloomfield Art Center, The Community House, and The Eccentric and Observer Newspapers and this year's awardee is Gary Graff. Barbara invited all board members and audience to attend and requested that the announcement be shared with all City board members.

F) Communication

Barnum Park Circular Pad

The Board inquired about a possible turnaround date for the approval and installation of a concrete pad for the Kulak sculpture. Linda Wells commented that ground temperatures begin to fall around mid-November and in order for the poured concrete to properly set the construction would have to occur before then.

Public Arts Map

Barbara cited some issues with the Public Arts map. Siberian ram donor name must be changed and it would be nice to include a link to the Marshall Fredericks walking tour. Information about the donors should also be provided. The online map is currently not displaying all of the images and as such must be fixed.

Birmingham Public Library Renovations

Barbara also reported that she spoke with head of BPL about the renovations and confirmed that the sculptures will be protected throughout the duration of the construction

(H) Public Comments

N/A

G) Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 PM