

# Public Arts Board

## Minutes – January 18, 2017

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Meeting called to order at 7:34 PM

**A) Roll Call –**

**Members Present:** Barbara Heller, Maggie Mettler, Ann Ritchie, Linda Wells

**Members Absent:** Phyllis Klinger, Jason Eddleston, Mary Roberts, Eva Suchara  
(Student Representative)

**Administration:** Sean Campbell, Assistant City Planner  
Jana Ecker, Planning Director

**Special Guest:** Laurie Tennent, Cultural Council of Birmingham-Bloomfield

**B) Approval of Minutes – November 16, 2016**

**Motion by Linda Wells, seconded by Maggie Mettler to approve the November 16, 2016 minutes with the following changes:**

**The replacement of the word "Mary" with "Linda" to read "Linda Wells" in the first sentence of the first paragraph under B) Approval of Minutes – October 19, 2016.**

**The replacement of the word "obtain" with "write," insertion of "would" between "Council" and "needs," and the elimination of the "s" in "need" in the first sentence of the second paragraph under Section C, Unfinished Business, Gary Kulak Sculpture "Pride".**

**The replacement of the word "Tournament" with "Fundraiser" in the first sentence of the second paragraph under D) New Business.**

**Yeas: 4      Nays: 0**

**C) Unfinished Business**

**Birmingham in Stitches Event – Fall of 2017**

Sean Campbell presented the Special Events Application completed for the Birmingham In Stitches event proposed for September 16 through October 7, 2017. He presented a map of the proposed yarn bombing locations along with the application. Jana Ecker

stated that she would submit these materials to the City Manager for an upcoming City Commission agenda.

**Motion by Ann Ritchie, Seconded by Linda Wells to approve the Special Events Application with the proposed yarn decoration locations.**

**Yeas: 4**

**Nays: 0**

Linda Wells added that Lori Rondello from the Birmingham Shopping District (BSD) contacted her about having the granite balls in Shain Park decorated with yarn during the Winter Markt event in December 2017. Ms. Ecker recommended having BSD place that on their Winter Markt special event application rather than have the PAB fill out a second special event application for approval. Board members expressed that they would like to do as many granite balls as possible.

**D) New Business**

**1.) Coordination with Cultural Council of Birmingham/Bloomfield  
Special Guest Laurie Tennent, President**

Audience members, Laurie Tennent, Sally Parsons, and Kathy Wahlgren, were introduced on behalf of Cultural Council of Birmingham Bloomfield (CCBB). Ms. Tennent, President of CCBB, and Ms. Ecker, Planning Director, had met prior to the meeting to discuss a better procedure for approving and insuring temporary sculptures on public property. Ms. Ecker added that the CityScapes artist agreements are in Ms. Tennent's possession and that she will provide the City with copies to keep on record.

Mr. Campbell presented a table of all sculptures currently installed throughout the City, paying particular attention to who insures them and the length of the loans. It was noted that the contracts for all the CityScapes sculptures have expired and therefore need to be renewed. Ms. Tennent explained that the best way to proceed with updating the contracts would be to send letters to each of the artists asking if they would like to either extend the duration of the display, permanently donate their sculpture to the City, or terminate the contract and arrange to have the sculpture removed.

Board members discussed the length of the contract terms moving forward. Ms. Heller added that she liked the language in the Herb Babcock agreement that allowed the sculpture to remain installed until either party requested its removal. It was also discussed that 3 to 5 years would be a preferable minimum term.

Kathy Walgren added that if the artist agreements are to be extended that some of the sculptures would require maintenance and/or repair. She advised not sending a blanket letter to all the artists, but instead treating each sculpture individually.

Members discussed which temporary sculptures they would like to remain on display. The consensus was to keep *Journey Home*, *TORSO*, *Wind Rapids*, *The Counselor*, and *Lucky at Love*, *Unlucky at Game*, *You Can't Have it All*. Board members discussed the removal of *Choopy*, *Untitled* (Jay Wholley), and *Poetry and Truth*. Lastly, the Board discussed relocating *Heart of the Tetrahedren* and *Untitled* (Nathan Diana). It was further added that Nathan Diana's sculpture would be considered for removal if it did not receive the necessary maintenance and/or repairs.

Board members discussed ways to coordinate better with CCBB. Ms. Tennent recommended that the PAB nominate one of its members to attend CCBB meetings. Ms. Wells was subsequently nominated for this position.

Ms. Ecker discussed the current application process for public art, and it was agreed that the application process for approving public art will need to be updated to be consistent with a revised process. Ms. Ecker and Ms. Tennent agreed to meet prior to the next meeting and come back with a revised application process.

No motion was passed. It was agreed that discussion would resume at the next PAB meeting regarding renewing the artist agreements and reviewing a revised application process.

## **2.) Discussion of Funding Sources**

Ms. Ecker explained that she put in a budget request of \$5,000 in the Planning Department's budget as requested by the Public Arts Board.

Ms. Rose, resident of the Barnum Park neighborhood stated that no recent correspondence has occurred between the Community for Barnum Park and the City regarding the concrete pad. Ms. Rose reaffirmed the need for the funds to construct a concrete pad in Barnum Park for public art.

## **EF) Committee Reports**

Ms. Heller reported that the December charity poker fundraiser netted \$1,250 and that she would be applying for a date between April and June for the next event. The Board agreed that Mr. B's would be a preferable location for the event in lieu of 5 Star Lanes. Ms. Heller said she would have the confirmed dates and times for the fundraiser by next meeting.

**FG) Public Comments**

None.

**GH) Adjournment**

Yeas: 4

Nays: 0

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

APPROVED