

Public Arts Board

Minutes – February 15, 2017

Meeting called to order at 6:47 PM

A) Roll Call –

Members Present: Jason Eddleston, Barbara Heller, Ann Ritchie, Linda Wells

Members Absent: Mary Roberts

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

CCBB Members Present: Laurie Tennent, Kathy Walgren

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

B) Approval of Minutes – January 18, 2017

Motion by Linda Wells, seconded by Ann Ritchie to approve the January 18, 2017 minutes, with the condition that staff reviews the audio recording of the meeting and verifies the Board's decision to keep or remove *Choopy* by Mark di Suvero:

Yeas: 4 Nays: 0

The motion carried.

C) Unfinished Business

CityScapes Artist Agreement Renewals

1. Sculptures to Be Kept/Relocated/Removed

Sean Campbell summarized the activity that occurred at the previous meeting regarding the process of updating expired CityScapes Artist Agreements. Based on the Board's deliberations, Mr. Campbell compiled a list of all temporary sculptures and their discussed actions. In addition, two letters were drafted: one which would be sent to an artist whose sculpture was recommended for keeping, the other which would be sent to an artist whose sculpture was recommended for removal.

The consensus of the Board was to keep *Choopy* by Mark Di Suvero at its current location.

Kathy Walgren was not in favor of the Martha Baldwin Park Board's recommendation to relocate *Heart of the Tetrahedron* due to the costs the Cultural Council of Birmingham Bloomfield (CCBB) would incur to do that. Jana Ecker advised that the Public Arts Board (PAB) would ultimately make the recommendation to the City Commission to either keep or remove the piece from the Park. It was agreed that the sculpture should not be relocated due to the costs.

Due to the cost of relocation and its poor condition, the consensus of the Board was to remove Nathan Diana's untitled sculpture.

Motion by Jason Eddleston, seconded by Ann Ritchie, to direct staff to send renewal letters to the following artists to extend their temporary sculpture loan: Mark di Suvero for *Choopy* and *Heart of the Tetrahedron* – at its current location; Dennis Oppenheim for *Journey Home*; Chris Yockey for *Unlucky at Love...* and *The Counselor*, Herb Babcock for *TORSO*; Russell Thayer for *Wind Rapids*; and

To direct staff to send letters to the following artists requesting removal of their sculptures: John Sauve for *Poetry and Truth*; Nathan Diana for *Untitled*; and Jay Wholley for *Untitled*.

Yeas: 3 Nays: 0

No action was taken on the motion.

Linda Wells abstained as she recalled that the Board previously discussed keeping Nathan Diana's sculpture at its current location on the condition that the artist performed necessary maintenance on it. Ms. Walgren stated that while she was not in favor of relocating it, she was not certain that CCBB would be against requesting the artist to perform maintenance. Ms. Ecker advised that per the CityScapes artist agreement, the artist is required to perform and pay for maintenance as determined necessary by CCBB. After reviewing the minutes to verify that the Board discussed keeping it for repairs, members agreed to keep the sculpture.

Mr. Eddleston withdrew the previous motion.

Motion by Jason Eddleston, seconded by Ann Ritchie, to direct staff to send renewal letters to the following artists to extend their temporary sculpture loan: Mark di Suvero for *Choopy* and *Heart of the Tetrahedron* – at its current location; Dennis Oppenheim for *Journey Home*; Chris Yockey for *Unlucky at Love...* and *The Counselor*, Herb Babcock for *TORSO*; Nathan Diana for *Untitled*, but direct the artist to make repairs; Russell Thayer for *Wind Rapids*; and

To direct staff to send letters to the following artists requesting removal of their sculptures: John Sauve for *Poetry and Truth*; and Jay Wholley for *Untitled*.

Yeas: 4 Nays: 0

The motion carried.

2. Letters to Artists

Ms. Heller asked whether there would be a return receipt included in the renewal letter. Ms. Ecker confirmed that there would be. Ms. Heller added that the letter should also remind the artist that it is their responsibility to perform maintenance at the request of CCBB.

Mr. Eddleston suggested revising the letter to use a different word than "terminate" as not to sound so harsh. Ms. Ecker said she would check with the City Attorney to verify whether this is mandatory language or not.

Mr. Campbell suggested attaching both the addendum and the application to the letter to correspond with the artist's decision to either extend the loan or donate the piece. The Board agreed with this idea.

Ms. Walgren added that the values of the sculptures have likely changed since the artist agreements were executed. She explained that obtaining updated values of the renewed sculptures would be necessary for insurance purposes and therefore the letter should require this information from the artist.

D) New Business

Updated Procedure and Application for Public Art

Mr. Campbell presented a memo describing the updated procedure and application for public art.

Ms. Walgren indicated that CCBB does have funds for insurance and plans to hold a call for entries at some point but will not do so under the name "CityScapes." The new program would be called "Art in Public Spaces" to match the title of the updated application that was decided upon during Staff's meeting with Laurie Tennent.

Mr. Campbell mentioned that he and Laurie discussed possibly having an announcement or press release whenever an approved public space is vacated and becomes available for an art installation. Mr. Campbell recommended that the Board approve a list of new locations for the future. Ms. Heller mentioned that the Board put together a list of

potential locations several years ago and should be referenced. The Board directed staff to bring a list and or map of existing and potential locations to the next meeting.

Cindy Rose questioned whether requiring the applicant to provide the sculpture's wind load on the application would be excessive. Ms. Ecker noted that the Building Department requires this information to ensure that the foundation is strong enough to avoid future liability issues. Ms. Wells remarked that the applicant should fill out the application as best as they can and that including wind load information on the application would give them ability to ask questions about it early on.

Ms. Heller suggested changing the third line of the application to read "Dealer, owner, or agent (dealer)." She also suggested eliminating "approved for continuation" under the PAB Action section of the application. The Board agreed with these recommended changes.

Ms. Ecker clarified that application requirements are not codified and amended to the City Code, but more or less act as guidelines to ensure the application addresses the concerns of all Departments before it is routed.

Ms. Ecker recommended changing "approved" to "recommended for approval" and "not approved" to "not recommended for approval" in this section. The Board agreed with this recommended change.

Jay Lefkowitz Sculpture "Sound Heart"

Mr. Campbell provided an update on *Sound Heart* by Jay Lefkowitz. He explained that he has been communicating with Kroger's project manager and architect to make sure they have all of the necessary information about the sculpture in order to design a proper foundation. He further explained that an access and maintenance agreement has been drafted and will be sent to Kroger for signatures once it has been finalized.

E) Committee Reports

PAB/CCBB Charity Fundraiser

Ms. Heller reported that the charity fundraiser has been confirmed to take place July 5th – 9th, 2017 at 5 Star Charity Poker room in Sterling Heights. The scheduled time of the event is 4 PM to 2 AM.

Ms. Ritchie indicated that she might be able to take an early shift at the tournament on Wednesday.

Community Thrives

Ms. Heller presented an overview of nationwide program Community Thrives by USA Today Network, which offers grant opportunities for ideas that focus on real change in local communities. She explained that program is accepting applications that center on the category Arts and Cultures. Two \$50,000 grants and one \$100,000 grant will be awarded under this category. The Board would need to submit a video explaining its idea and how the grant would help. The application deadline is March 1, 2017 at 11:59 AM.

Ms. Heller and Mr. Eddleston agreed to co-chair a subcommittee to put together a submission.

F) Communication

Birmingham in Stitches

Ms. Ecker reported that the Planning Department submitted the Birmingham in Stitches 2017 application to the Clerk's Office and that notices have been sent to everyone within the affected area of the event. It is expected to be on the February 27, 2017 City Commission agenda for consideration.

Ms. Ritchie has requested more information on how past events were organized. She agreed to draft a letter that would be sent to volunteers, artists, and participating organizations of the event.

Mr. Campbell will confirm whether the Birmingham Shopping District will include the decorated granite balls in the Special Event application for Winter Markt 2017.

Outgoing Members

Ms. Heller informed the Board of Phyllis Klinger's passing and offered on the behalf of the PAB to send a sympathy letter to her family.

Ms. Heller requested that staff send outgoing student member, Ava Suchara, a letter thanking her for her service on the Board.

Ms. Heller also informed the Board that regular member, Maggie Mettler, has resigned. As such, the Board requested that a letter be sent out to her thanking her for her service.

Budget

Ms. Ecker advised that she had put in a \$5,000 budget request for the Public Arts Board. She explained that the request would be reviewed by the City Manager in early March and from there it would either be recommended for approval or removal. Hearings are held in April where the City Commission would approve the Budget.

G) Public Comments

Ms. Rose provided an update on the latest activity regarding the funding of sculpture pad in Barnum Park. She made a formal request to the City Manager that the City perform and pay for the necessary soil borings in the park. The City Manager had suggested that since there is no confirmed sculpture for the site that perhaps a smaller pad could go there and therefore not require any soil borings.

Ms. Ecker advised that the Engineering Department had included the foundation in their next sidewalk program. She could not confirm that the soil borings would be an eligible expense in this program. More updates to follow on this matter at the next meeting.

Kathy Walgren stated that the CCBB needs help with nominating people in the community who have contributed to arts and culture for the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center award. The nomination form for the award opens up in June and the ceremony is in September.

She also requested that the City or Cultural Council join the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs for possible funding opportunities.

Ms. Walgren also reported that the CCBB suggests that some of the budget request, if approved, be used towards new plaques as they all say "John Sauve."

H) Adjournment

Motion by Jason Eddleston, seconded by Anne Ritchie to adjourn the meeting.

Yeas: 4 Nays: 0

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM