

Public Arts Board

Rooms 202 and 203 Birmingham City Hall – November 15, 2017

Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM.

A) Roll Call –

Members Present: Rabbi Baruch Cohen, Monica Neville, Barbara Heller, Anne Ritchie, Linda Wells

Members Absent: Jason Eddleston, Mary Roberts, Cecilia Trella (student member)

Student Members Present: Celeste Demps-Simons

Audience Members: Cindy Rose, Nicolas Pecorelli

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

B) Approval of Minutes – October 18, 2017

Taking issue at the wordiness of the October 18, 2017 minutes, members of the Board agreed to postpone approval until the next meeting. The Board directed Staff to amend the minutes to be more succinct and to capture only general discussions.

C) Unfinished Business

D) New Business

Proposed Sculpture Loan – Windswept

Sean Campbell presented his memo on artist Gary Kulak's proposed loan of *Windswept*. He stated that he presented the application to the Parks and Recreation Board on November 14, 2017 since it is proposed within Barnum Park, a city-owned park. Parks and Recreation Board voted to approve the sculpture 6 to 1 with the condition that liability insurance be obtained. Mr. Campbell verified that Cultural Council of Birmingham Bloomfield (CCBB) has always provided commercial general liability insurance for loaned sculptures. Lastly, Mr. Campbell raised the Police Department's concern that the sculpture presents an attractive nuisance to youths who may wish to climb it.

The Board expressed no hesitation over accepting the sculpture. Members also did not see the sculpture as an attractive nuisance.

Motion by Linda Wells, seconded by Rabbi Boruch Cohen, to accept the sculpture *Windswept* for installation.

Yeas: 5 Nays: 0

Mr. Campbell explained that the next step would be to draft the access and maintenance agreement, get it signed by all responsible parties, and then present it to the City Commission.

Nicolas Pecorelli, one of Mr. Kulak's students at Cranbrook, attended the meeting to speak on behalf of Mr. Kulak and his proposed loan. He remarked that Mr. Kulak and his sculptures have been a huge inspiration to him and his fellow classmates. He added that seeing the piece go here would inspire him and other students further.

The consensus of the Board was that a "Do Not Climb" sign would be an appropriate measure but a fence would be unnecessary.

Proposed Sculpture Loan – Eastern Hophornbeam

Mr. Campbell presented his memo on the Hill Gallery's proposed loan of *Eastern Hophornbeam*. He explained that this piece was being proposed as a replacement for the Dennis Oppenheim sculpture *Journey Home* as it had been removed from its location of nearly 4 years at the Baldwin Public Library southwest lawn.

Members of the Board noted that the Oppenheim sculpture will be missed. Members expressed an interest in the Robert Lobe sculpture but wavered on the notion that other boards or members of the community may not receive the proposed location well.

Members discussed whether a 1-year loan would be sufficient. It was the consensus that 1 year would work but the Gallery would have to give a 30 day notice before the removing it, as is standard procedure.

Mr. Campbell explained that because this loan affects the premises of the Library, it would require Baldwin Public Library Board approval. Should the PAB move to recommend approval for the sculpture, he would take it to the Library Board's December 18, 2017 meeting.

Motion by Rabbi Cohen, seconded Anne Ritchie to recommend approval of the donation of *Eastern Hophornbeam* and its placement in the Library's southwest lawn.

Yeas: 5 Nays: 0

Jana Ecker advised that it will be routed to the Baldwin Public Library Board for review.

Special Event List

Following the direction of the PAB, Mr. Campbell presented a list of forthcoming special events in the city with applicant names and numbers. The Board requested this list to aid in the process of opening the lines of communication with organizations in the City that hold art-related events.

Ms. Ecker explained that many of these events are annual and so the Board could start contacting these groups to get started on next year's programming.

Rabbi Baruch Cohen inquired whether it was the responsibility of the subcommittee or Board as a whole to do the outreach. It was the consensus of the Board that this responsibility would be delegated to the subcommittee.

Motion by Anne Ritchie, seconded by Monica Neville, to authorize the subcommittee to increase collaboration with entities in the city for the exploration of possible art-related opportunities.

E) Communication

Cindy Rose asked what the status was on *Sound Heart* by Jay Lefkowitz. Mr. Campbell explained that Kroger had just signed the Access and Maintenance Agreement contract and that the application would go before the City Commission for final review on either December 4th or 11th, 2017.

Ms. Ecker advised that any members who wish to attend the City Commission meeting to offer their support for the proposed donation must do so as a resident of the community and not on behalf of the PAB.

The Board took a moment to acknowledge the loss of renowned architect and Birmingham resident Irving Tobocman and to celebrate his contributions to the world.

F) Adjournment

With no further business being evident, the meeting adjourned at 7:26 PM.