

Public Arts Board

Rooms 202 & 203 Birmingham City Hall – March 21st, 2018

A. Roll Call:

Members Present: Rabbi Baruch Cohen, Monica Neville, Linda Wells, Anne Ritchie, Barbara Heller, Natalie Bashay, Amelia Barrie, Cole Wohlfield

Members Absent: Mary Roberts, Jason Eddleston

Administration: Jana Ecker, Planning Director
Brooks Cowan, City Planner

B. Approval of Minutes – March 21st, 2018

Changes to the minutes were proposed by Barbara Heller. She was marked absent in the minutes, but she was in attendance.

Motion to approve the meeting minutes as amended for January 21, 2018 was made by Linda Wells, seconded by Monica Neville.

Yeas: 6 Nays: 0

The motion carried.

C. Unfinished Business

The preferred location of Eastern Hophornbeam was once again discussed. The Parks and Recreation Department wanted the Arts Board to be informed of future projects and activities that would be occurring at Booth Park that may conflict with the sculpture location. There was Board consensus that Booth Park is still the number one priority, but they would also propose Barnum Park as the second priority to the Parks and Recreation Board.

Rabbi Baruch motioned to approve a plan B for Barnum Park, seconded by Anne Ritchie.

Yeas: 6 Nays: 0

The motion carried.

The Public Arts Board also decided that members would walk Booth Park and Barnum Park with Mr. Cowan to select specific locations in each park to present to the Parks and Recreation Board.

Members of the Public Arts Board met with members of the Public Library Board to discuss a selection for a new library sculpture. It was decided that the City would draft a call for applications with suggested loan terms and a photo of the location in an effort to solicit new applications. The wording would be provided for review at the next Public Art Board Meeting.

D. New Business

Rabbi Cohen reviewed suggested ideas and projects from the Public Space Activation Committee the previous. Topics included expanding marketing outreach, engaging with local galleries and businesses, having guest speakers, art films, game tables, and coordinating with other City events and departments. A number of ideas caught traction such as sidewalk chalk art, coordinating with art galleries and stores to conduct art walks, art in the alley, and art lessons in the parks. The Board felt like there were a number of good suggestions but wanted to prioritize which ones they thought they could achieve. The Board decided it was best to have the Sub-Committee review the suggestions, prioritize which ones they would like to pursue, and then present their suggestions at the next meeting.

The Board also discussed expanding its marketing and outreach efforts. Board members want to create more materials such as posters and t-shirts to promote the City's artwork. They also want to enhance their online profile. There was general consensus that they needed good photos of all the public art pieces. There was also general consensus that Monica Neville and Anne Ritchie could handle choosing photos and putting together preliminary marketing material. New photos could be taken where necessary and also used in an updated website.

E. Communication

The Board indicated they would like to participate in the Winter Market done by the BSD by knitting covers for the granite balls in Shain Park. The participants doing the knitting would like to be made aware of the event in the summer time with enough time to knit coverings of that size.

The Board was also made aware of the City's social media guidelines. The Board wanted to explore further options to expand their social media presence.

F. Comments

Ms. Heller advised that the Board made over \$3,000 in their poker fundraiser, and has sent in an application for another fundraiser in June.

The Board expressed a desire to make public announcements for sculpture dedications once new sculptures go up.

The idea of performing arts was raised and questions about what types of performing arts the Art Board could promote were discussed.

G. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm

Brooks Cowan
City Planner