

Public Arts Board

Rooms 202 & 203 Birmingham City Hall – January 15, 2018

A. Roll Call:

Members Present: Rabbi Baruch Cohen, Monica Neville, Linda Wells, Jason Eddleston, Barbara Heller

Members Absent: Anne Ritchie, Mary Roberts

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

B. Approval of Minutes – October 18, 2017

Motion to Approve October 18, 2017 Meeting Minutes by Monica Neville, seconded by Linda Wells.

Yeas: 4 Nays: 0

The motion carried.

C. Approval of Minutes – November 15, 2017

Motion to Approve November 15, 2017 Meeting Minutes by Rabbi Baruch Cohen, seconded by Jason Eddleston.

Yeas: 4 Nays: 0

The motion carried.

D. New Business

Eastern Hophornbeam and Library Board Collaboration

Doug Kosceck was introduced as the Birmingham Library Director. The consensus from the Library Board was that the Eastern Hophornbeam did not fit the vision of what they had in mind for a new sculpture at the library, nor did they approve of the backup sculpture from Hill Gallery. It was indicated that the Library Board would like to leave the space open to consider other opportunities.

It was also noted that the Library Board would like to collaborate with the Public Arts Board on searching for a new sculpture to replace the former Oppenheim piece. A sub-committee consisting of Public Arts Board members and Library Board members to improve collaboration was suggested. There may be upcoming renovations to the library and a potential for more sculptures and art work space as well. Having a sub-committee would

provide earlier input to the Art Board in regards to the Library Board's thoughts about suggested sculptures.

There was some discussion about not wanting to create another layer of bureaucracy, and it was noted that the Public Arts Board already has a sub-committee to help brainstorm ideas and create items for the agenda. An argument in support of the suggestion was that an Arts Board-Library Board sub-committee could set a good precedent for the Public Arts Board working with other entities in the City. Collaborating could speed up the vetting process related to what both boards would like to see.

Establishing liaisons from the Library Board and Public Arts Board instead of a sub-committee was then suggested. The search for a sculpture at the library is more of a short term project and may not merit the creation of a sub-committee. The main goal is communication between the two boards to facilitate plans and there was a consensus that having liaisons was preferred over forming a sub-committee. It was decided that Linda Wells and Barbara Heller be liaisons for the Public Arts Board, and Doug Koscick would speak with the Library Board to determine their own liaisons.

Motion to appoint Linda Wells and Barbara Heller as the Public Art Board's liaisons to the Library Board was made by Monica Neville and seconded by Jason Eddleston.

Yeas: 4 Nays: 0

The motion carried

Locations for Eastern Hophornbeam

Tim Hill, the gallery owner donating the Eastern Hophornbeam was provided a map and a list of pre-qualified spaces in Birmingham where the sculpture could be placed. His top three locations were Booth Park near the trail, Barnum Park, and Shain Park.

The Board indicated that location #4 in Booth Park by the trail and creek would be a nice fit for the sculpture due to the proximity to the trail, Rouge River, and the forest. Barnum Park would also be nice, but there are a number of other art projects going on there, whereas Booth Park does not currently have a sculpture. According to the Board, Shain Park has a lot going on right now and was less of a priority.

There was consensus that Booth and Barnum are top priorities, but Sean Campbell noted that Tim Hill is also open to other suggestions as long as the Board remains engaged in finding a place for the sculpture.

Motion was made to recommend the Eastern Hophornbeam for Booth Park to be installed in the spring within the vicinity of location # 4 by Linda Wells, seconded by Monica Neville.

Yeas: 4 Nays: 1 – Jason Eddleston

The motion passed

It was noted after the motion than their first priority is Booth Park, but if the location does not work out, then they prefer Barnum Park for recommendation.

Kindness Rocks (40:00)

Sean Campbell presented the concept of kindness rocks to the Parks & Rec Board on December 5th, 2017. The proposal was not immediately preferred as the Park and Rec Board had concerns about type of rocks, size of rocks, and only wanted Michigan native rocks.

There was discussion that perhaps they could try to provide more info to Parks Board to show how benign this project is and demonstrate the scale of project, which is minor. It was also discussed how this grassroots trend may have passed and that the committee should pursue staying ahead of trends. There was a consensus to take no action and table the project and possibly bring it up at a future time if desired.

E. Committee Report

Volunteer slots were allocated among Board members to manage each night of the charity poker fundraiser.

F. Communication:

- Loan of Windswept was approved by City Commission. It is a 5 year loan and Gary Kulak wishes to have it installed at Barnum Park in the Spring.
- Soundhearts donation was approved by City Commission in late November, Kroger would also like to install it in the spring. The plaza has space for the sculpture and Jay Lefkowitz would like it elevated by one foot at most. This message was passed to the Kroger project manager. Kroger is working with an architect to design a pad for the sculpture.

G. Public Comments

The Board members thanked Sean Campbell for all of his work with the Public Arts Board.

H. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm.