

Public Arts Board Minutes DRAFT

Rooms 202 & 203 Birmingham City Hall – August 21st, 2019

A. Roll Call:

Members Present: Barbara Heller, Monica Neville, Linda Wells, Jason Eddleston, Anne Ritchie

Members Absent: Natalie Bishae

Administration: Brooks Cowan, City Planner

B. Approval of Minutes – July 17th, 2019

Jason Eddleston's name was missing a "t". Motion to approve minutes as amended was made.

Yeas: 5 Nays: 0

The motion carried.

C. Unfinished Business

The Public Arts Board event Yarn Bombing was brought up as an upcoming event for September 13th, 2019. Linda Wells indicated a need from the event participants for more fabric covers to help attach the yarn to various objects. She estimated the necessary yardage from a local fabric store would cost around \$75. Anne Ritchie motioned to recommend \$75 for fabric covers to be used for yarn bombing. Motion was seconded by Monica Neville.

Yeas: 5 Nays: 0

The motion carried.

The Public Arts Board had previously requested an inventory of sculpture plaques which was presented to the Board at this time. The plaques for Chris Yockey and Nathan Diana are the older versions from Cityscapes in 2008, and the Public Arts Board discussed having their plaques updated to the new bronze style. The Board also brought up the need to order a plaque for *Michigan Spring* which is to be installed at the Library. It was brought up by staff that when three plaques were ordered a year ago for *Eastern Hophornbeam*, *Windswept*, and *Soundheart*, the cost was around \$750. The Public Arts Board agreed that this sounded like a reasonable amount. Linda Wells motioned to approve \$750 for three new plaques for the sculptures by Chris Yockey, Nathan Diana, and James Miller-Melburg. Motion was seconded by Jason Eddleston.

Yeas: 5 Nays: 0

The motion carried.

On May 22nd, 2019, the City Commission approved the Public Arts Board recommendation to paint the electrical box in front of the Birmingham 8 Theater as a popcorn box. At this time, the City Commission suggested proposals for painting the electrical boxes on Merrill at S. Old Woodward as well as N. Old Woodward and Hamilton Row.

In considering these electrical boxes, the Public Arts Board discussed whether or not to try to keep the boxes contextual with their surroundings. Suggestions such as an old timey safe was proposed for the box in front of Chase Bank, and an Alice in Wonderland themed Madhatter hat was proposed for the box at N. Old Woodward and Hamilton Row. It was determined that these tenants and nearby spaces were less of a fixture in Birmingham's downtown, therefore the concept should not necessarily be related to its surrounding. There were a number of other suggestions, but there was consensus that the Board wanted a style that was thematic with pop art. The Board liked the ideas for a crayon box at N. Old Woodward and Hamilton, and an 80's retro style mixed-tape cassette for the electrical box in front of Chase Bank.

Anne Ritchie brought up the USB charging stations located throughout downtown beside the new benches, and how a number of people were mistaking them for ashtrays. Anne suggested painting some type of electrical themed design on these charging stations to draw more attention for their purpose. There was consensus from the Board that this was a great idea.

Anne Ritchie Motioned to paint the electrical box at N. Old Woodward and Hamilton Row as a crayon box, the electrical box at Merrill and S. Old Woodward as an 80's mixed tape, and USB charging stations as with an electric theme, including a supplies cost for paint, brushes, primer, and coating not to exceed \$750. Monica Neville seconded the motion.

Yeas: 5 Nays: 0

D. New Business

E. Communication

The Public Arts Board discussed volunteering at the Farmers Market on September 1st, 2019. The Board indicated they like the new sculpture map and want 50 copies to hand out at the event. City staff also met with a mount fabricator to inspect the Michigan Spring sculpture and discuss creating a mount for the sculpture to be installed at the Library.

F. Comments

G. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Brooks Cowan
City Planner