

Public Arts Board Minutes FINAL

Rooms 202 & 203 Birmingham City Hall – July 17th, 2019

A. Roll Call:

Members Present: Barbara Heller, Monica Neville, Linda Wells, Jason Eddleston, Natalie Bishae

Members Absent: Anne Ritchie

Administration: Brooks Cowan, City Planner

B. Approval of Minutes – May 15th, 2019 (No quorum for June meeting)

Motion to approve minutes made by Monica Neville, seconded by Natalie Bishai.

Yeas: 5 Nays: 0

The motion carried.

C. Unfinished Business

The Public Arts Board has been planning to host arts and crafts activities at various events throughout the year such as Art in the Alley and Farmers Markets. Crafts materials for these events including scissors, hole punchers, straws and paper for participants to make pinwheels have been purchased. Six rolls of gorilla tape were also purchased for Art in the Alley to tape art to walls, and secure the electrical cords from the various plugs running from the rooftops to the band area. The total for these costs have amounted to \$105.70 so far. The Public Arts Board would indicated to they would also like to purchase pipe cleaners and foam shapes for crafts projects where kids can build miniature sculptures. The PAB decided that \$200 is an appropriate amount to recommend given then current schedule of events and available volunteers.

Motion to recommend \$200 for interactive art projects was made by Monica Neville, seconded by Natalie Bishai.

Yeas: 5 Nays: 0

The motion carried.

The Public Arts Board discussed potential locations for Chris Yockey's "The Counselor" sculpture in case the current North Old Woodward parking structure is torn down to make way for a new structure. They reviewed four suggested locations throughout Birmingham on public property, and the top two were the west facing wall of the new Chester Fire Station, or the exterior stair case of the Park Street parking structure. The Public Arts Board determined that the Park Street structure had more visibility and would be easier to move from its current location. The Public Arts Board also determined that they would like to recommend "The Counselor" be located at the site on a temporary basis and to be reconsidered if or when the buildings for the North Old Woodward redevelopment are built as they would like "The Counselor" to be a part of the proposed plaza in some way.

Motion to recommend the temporary relocation of the "The Counselor" to the Park Street parking structure on the southwest staircase at a height to be determined by the artist in case of new North Old Woodward parking structure plans being approved was made by Jason Eddleson, seconded by Natalie Bishai.

Yeas: 5 Nays: 0

The motion carried.

Chris Yockey has been made aware of the potential for his sculpture to be moved. In this discussion, the artist has offered to sell "The Counselor" to the City of Birmingham for an amount of \$5,500. The Public Arts Board believes this sculpture provides aesthetic value to its surroundings, the offered price is a good value, and that they should recommend the purchase of this piece.

Motion to recommend the purchase of Chris Yockey's "The Counselor" for an amount of \$5,500 was made by Monica Neville, seconded by Jason Eddleson.

Yeas: 5 Nays: 0

The motion carried.

The City has approved the donation and installation of Michigan Spring for the southwest corner of the library. A 6'x6' concrete pad will have to be poured before the sculpture can be installed. An issue with installation is that the sculpture needs a special mount in order to be secured to the concrete pad. The Library Board, Public Arts Board, and donor have also recommended that the mount elevate the sculpture by two feet, which will require extra crafting. City staff has been in communication with James Storm who is a sculpture mount fabricator for the Detroit Institute of Arts. The donor for "Michigan Spring" agreed that he would like James Storm to perform the installation due to his experience with the DIA. James Storm quoted the project to cost to be between \$700-\$900. The Public Arts Board felt that they should recommend up to \$1,000 to be safe, and then suggest that the Library Board contribute to any costs that exceed that amount, although they don't believe that will be the case.

Motion to recommend up to \$1,000 for James Storm to fabricate a sculpture mount for "Michigan Spring" and conduct the installation at the Library was made by Natalie Bishai, seconded by Monica Neville.

Yeas: 5 Nays: 0

The motion carried.

A fourth item was added to the agenda for the Public Arts Board in unfinished business. City Commission approved the Public Arts Board's recommendation for Piano in the Park on May 20, 2019. One of the conditions of approval was that the Piano be placed in the Shain Park until August 31, 2019, and would be revisited by City Commission in a time in August for review. The Public Arts Board discussed the positive feedback they have received from the community and would like to see the timeframe extended throughout the fall. They feel that location in Shain Park provided adequate protection from the weather. Jason Eddleson also notified the Board that Professional Movers coordinates with the Royal Oak and the Detroit School of Rock and Pop Music for moving piano's when the weather gets cold around December. The Public Arts Board would like to see Birmingham extend the timeframe for the piano into the winter and coordinate with Professional Movers when they are moving Royal Oak's pianos as well.

Motion to recommend Piano in the Park be extended from August 31st, 2019 to sometime before December 25th, 2019, depending on the weather, to be coordinated with Professional Movers.

Yeas: 5 Nays: 0

The motion carried.

D. New Business

E. Communication

Electrical Box Painting is underway, Charity poker fundraiser is July 31st – August 3rd, and nominations for Birmingham Bloomfield Cultural Arts Awards are due July 30th.

F. Comments

Mark Di Suvero has indicated he will be removing his sculptures Choopy and Heart of Tetrahyden from the locations in Birmingham July 24th, 2019.

The Public Arts Board would like to send thank you notes to the previous student reps Cole Wohlfiel and Amelia Berry.

G. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Brooks Cowan
City Planner