

Public Arts Board Minutes

Rooms 202 & 203 Birmingham City Hall – March 20th, 2019

A. Roll Call:

Members Present: Barbara Heller, Monica Neville, Linda Wells, Anne Ritchie, Jason Eddleson, Cole Wohlfiel (Student)

Members Absent: Rabbi Boruch Cohen, Amelia Berry (Student)

Administration: Brooks Cowan, City Planner

B. Approval of Minutes – February 20th, 2019

Motion to approve minutes made by Jason Eddleson, seconded by Linda Wells.

Yeas: 5 Nays: 0

The motion carried.

C. Unfinished Business

The Public Arts Board had previously approved a recommendation to have board member Anne Ritchie create a popcorn box design to recommend to the City Commission for the electrical box in the sidewalk planter in front of the Birmingham 8 theater. Anne Ritchie brought in her designs this day which indicated a red and white striped box with popcorn on the top. The Public Arts Board was enthusiastic about the idea and thought it would be a fun addition to the downtown.

It was suggested that the text “#BirminghamPublicArt” be added to the box for a way to encourage people to tag Birmingham Public Art in online platforms. This text is planned to be placed in the lower box where the ingredients are currently listed. The Public Arts Board motioned to approve the recommendation to City Commission of the popcorn box design with “#BirminghamPublicArt” added for the electrical box in the sidewalk planter at S. Old Woodward and Merrill.

The motion approved 5-0.

The Public Arts Board had been working on creating a public piano program and had previously recommended the pavilion at Shain Park as their desired space. The Public Arts Board recently received an application for review from a Birmingham resident to have their piano placed in Shain park for the public to play. Along with the application, Jason Gittinger of Detroit School of Rock and Pop Music came and spoke with the Public Arts Board about how Royal Oak manages their public piano program. He described how moving parts are bolted down and then the City hosts a community painting event for the pianos where they are stored. He also described how professional movers assist with the storage and transportation for this program. Questions regarding vandalism were raised by the board. Jason Gittinger noted that two of the roughly 40 or so pianos had been vandalized, and his outlook was that the program created far more good than harm.

The Public Arts Board motioned to approve the recommendation to the City Commission for the piano donated by Michael and Maybeth Flynn for the recommended location at Shain Park for the time period of June 1st, 2019 to August 31st, 2019, with the condition that the piano maintenance is managed by Jason Gittinger of Detroit School of Rock and Pop Music and Professional Movers.

The motion was approved 5-0.

The Public Arts Board then motioned to approve a recommendation to the City Commission for a public painting event where the piano would be painted with an outdoor floral theme.

The motion approved 5-0.

It was noted that a plaque would be created stating that the piano was donated on behalf of Michael and Maybeth Flynn, and managed by Detroit School of Rock and Pop Music and Professional Movers.

In discussion of planning for special events, The Art Board continued to finalize details for the Art in the Alley event. The group of board members working on this project indicated they would get a detailed summary of the event and its participants before the City Commission hearing for it. The promotional material group then discussed the flyers with a description of Birmingham Public Arts Board's mission statement and the goals of Art in Public Spaces. It was determined that the header for the flyer would be "Birmingham Public Art".

D. New Business

E. Communication

The Birmingham in Stitches application had been submitted and the board would like to create more promotional material for the event to recruit more participants.

F. Comments

G. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Brooks Cowan
City Planner