

Public Arts Board Minutes DRAFT

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

A. Roll Call:

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

Members Absent: Natalie Bishae,

Administration: Brooks Cowan, City Planner

B. Approval of Minutes – October 16th, 2019

Motion to approve minutes made by Linda Wells, seconded by Monica Neville

Yeas: 5 Nays: 0

The motion carried.

C. Unfinished Business

The Board discussed prioritizing Terminating Vistas for sculptures and updating the pre-approved site map for sculptures. It was brought to their attention that the sidewalk plans for repaving Maple Road indicated a sculpture site at the intersection of Maple and Henrietta. There was consensus from the PAB that this site should be made a priority. It was also brought to their attention the a previously approved location as a priority at Peabody and Maple was going to be modified in a way that reduced the amount of space where a sculpture could be placed. It was determined that the PAB would keep it as priority and see how much space was available after construction. The Board values the intersection of Peabody and Maple because of the adjacent building and its location as an entrance to Birmingham.

The Public Arts Board also discussed updating the map of pre-qualified public art site locations to include their prioritized terminating vista locations. It was determined that the terminating vista locations would have a high priority, but they did not want to place a high weight on ranking each site. They would rather evaluate available art pieces within the context of how it would fit into each site.

The installation of Michigan Spring at the Library was discussed by the PAB. The Board has previously indicated that they would like the sculpture to be put on a pedestal two feet in height. Some of the complications in doing so were brought to the Board. These complications included finding someone to design the pedestal, install the pedestal, and have the funds approved to do so. Another potential issue is the aesthetics of a box that has dimensions of 5 feet wide, 3 feet long, and 2 feet in height in front of the Library could appear bulky and cumbersome.

Without a pedestal the PAB was concerned that the base of the sculpture may be scratched by a lawnmower or weed wacker. One suggestion was to surround the sculpture base with rocks to provide a greater buffer. The rocks could surround the base in a circular manner in order to match the flow of the sculpture.

Anne Ritchie motioned to recommend that a circle of rocks extending 1.5 feet from the base pad be installed surrounding *Michigan Spring*, that the rocks be constrained by a landscape barrier edging, and that small rocks used in landscaping throughout the city such as the area by the skatepark be used. Monica Neville seconded the motion.

Yeas: 5 Nays: 0

The motion carried.

The Public Art Board discussed 2019 accomplishments and 2020 goals to go into the annual report which is submitted to City Commission. The Board reflected on what went well in 2019 and what they believed they could replicate in 2020. There was general consensus that they should do Piano in the Park again and that four Farmers Markets was reasonable considering everyone's summer schedule. For a new project, the Board wants to provide a sculpture tour when the weather is nice, sometime late August or early September.

The Board agreed that in 2020, they would like professional design services to assist with an informational pamphlet about the city's sculptures. They also wanted to work on ways to streamline the sculpture installation process, and provide more incentives for artists to loan and/or donate work to the city. This information would all be included in an annual report for the Board to review at the next meeting.

Communication

A new version of the sculpture map was placed on the website where viewers can click on the sculpture site and have an image with artist and title pop up. The Board wanted the PDF version to remain as well. City Commission approved the purchase of Chris Yockey's "The Counselor" at the October 28, 2019 Commission meeting. The Eastern Hophornbeam has been installed in Booth Park, and the piano has to be removed before December 25th, 2019.

Comments

D. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.