

Public Arts Board Minutes

Public Meeting on Zoom – April 15th, 2020

A. Roll Call:

Members Present: Linda Wells, Barbara Heller, Monica Neville, Jason Eddleston, Anne Ritchie, Annie VanGeldereren, Natalie Bishae

Members Absent:

Administration: Brooks Cowan, City Planner

B. Approval of Minutes – February 19th, 2020

Motion to approve minutes made by Annie VanGeldereren, seconded by Jason Eddleston.

Yeas: 7 Nays: 0

The motion carried.

C. Unfinished Business

The PAB reviewed the Terminating Vista report and felt that it summarized their thoughts on ways in which the City may enhance Terminating Vistas throughout downtown. One revision was requested for recommendation number five regarding how the Board wanted electrical boxes to be painted with a pop-art theme, but wanted to remove specifying "making small items look big" from the recommendation. There was general consensus from the Board that the recommendations in the report accurately summarized their thoughts on creating a mural program for Birmingham and streamlining the sculpture installation process as a way to enhance Terminating Vistas. A motion to recommend the report to City Commission was made by Linda Wells and seconded by Monica Neville.

Yeas: 7 Nays: 0

The motion carried

The PAB discussed what to do about Piano in the Park 2020 given the spread of the corona virus and social distancing. The Board determined that they would like to provide a piano in Shain Park, but only once all social distancing bans have been lifted in the area. The Board wants to be respectful of peoples' concerns regarding the virus and discussed a best case scenario where a piano is possibly allowed in the park in the fall. There was consensus that they would like to see a draft for a Piano in the Park 2020 program that was contingent upon public spaces being open to everyone once again. This way the Board would have items ready to go when social distancing bans are lifted.

D. New Business

Creating a Call For Entry pamphlet for sculpture loans and donations was then discussed by the Board. An example from 2006 was discussed, while Board members suggested looking at other organizations' call for entries such as Detroit Artist Market, BBAC and various other art organizations who host sculpture galleries.

The Public Arts Board discussed various ways they could provide interactive art projects to the City during the Corona Virus epidemic. Creating a coloring book out of sculpture images was suggested. The images could be posted on the City's social media and encourage users to learn more about the City's sculptures on other pages in the City's public art website. Users could then submit drawings they have done to the City and have them posted on social media. It was also suggested that various City employees host online coloring time. Another proposal was short videos similar to "The More You Know" could be posted on the City's website which provide fun facts related to different art and architectural elements of the City. Also, as the PAB is unsure if Birmingham in Stitches will occur this fall, it was also recommended that people decorate their front yards with yarn and the City advertise a catalogue of different decorations. City staff would look into what could be accomplished given resources and time constraints.

E. Communication

Barbara Heller mentioned that she will be hosting a sculpture tour with Detroit Art on October 10th from 3-5pm.

F. Comments

G. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.