

Public Arts Board Minutes

Public Meeting on Zoom – June 17th, 2020

A. Roll Call:

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

Members Absent: Linda Wells

Administration: Brooks Cowan, City Planner

Members of the Public: Kathy Walgren and Laurie Tennent

B. Approval of Minutes – May 20th, 2020

Motion to approve minutes as amended made by Annie VanGeldereren, seconded by Anne Ritchie.

Yeas: 6 Nays: 0

The motion carried.

C. Unfinished Business

At the May 20th, 2020 Public Arts Board meeting, the Board discussed changes and enhancements to their Terminating Vista report after receiving comments on the Crayon Box proposal and Terminating Vistas from City Commission. A rough draft of such changes were provided and discussed. For types of public art, the Board was comfortable with recommending sculptures, furniture, utilities, and murals. Members of the Board requested that painted furniture, mosaics and tiles be included as well.

There was general consensus that the recommendations captured what the PAB felt would help enhance Terminating Vistas. The Board also felt that the recommendations should be prioritized with some type of action plan or implementation guidelines. These were to be provided in the next meeting's draft.

The Public Arts Board then discussed their Piano in the Park program. They had previously considered recommending the art installation as an annual program and reviewed suggested recommendations to do so. The Board wanted to ensure that the piano be placed in Shain Park only when COVID-19 restrictions were lifted. Members of the board also suggested amending the recommendations so that the piano donated to the City was preferably from a Birmingham Resident, it would be painted as a community arts project on a date to be determined by the PAB, and the PAB be responsible for moving and maintenance. Motion to approve recommendations with suggested edits was made by Annie VanGeldereren, seconded by Monica Neville.

Yeas: 6 Nays: 0

The motion carried.

D. New Business

The Public Arts Board then reviewed the Public Art Installation Loan from Laurie Tennent. An initial application was completed to place a piece of her artwork at the corner of Park and Maple. Complications of this site were discussed regarding the current construction and not having a clear idea of how the space will look until it is complete, as well as the site being a Terminating Vista and the Board having a study related to these design elements underway.

The potential for a multi-piece installation was discussed throughout the City's parks and trails. The Board and the artist were in agreement that the trails connecting Booth Park, Quarton Lake, and Linden Park would be ideal for a multi-artwork installation of the artist's photos due to the way that the photos compliment the natural surrounding features.

The artist indicated that the images are installed into the ground with 2 pieces of rebar and leave 0 footprint when removed. A similar installation concept had been done at Belle Isle with great success. The artist also indicated how solar lights were shined on the artwork to keep them illuminated at night and the PAB was amicable to this. The artist was also agreeable to a 1-year loan term.

A motion to recommend a multi-installation of art work by Laurie Tennent from Booth Park to Quarton Lake and Linden at locations to be determined by the artist for a period of 1 year was made by Anne Ritchie, seconded by Annie VanGeldereren.

Yeas: 6

Nays: 0

The motion carried.

E. Communication

Barbara Heller indicated that she will be leading a tour of Birmingham sculptures for the Detroit Artist Market on July 18th, 2020 from 2-4pm.

F. Comments

G. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.