

Public Arts Board Minutes

Public Meeting on Zoom – May 20th, 2020

A. Roll Call:

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

Members Absent: Linda Wells

Administration: Brooks Cowan, City Planner

B. Approval of Minutes – April 15th, 2020

Correction to spelling of names were mentioned. Motion to approve minutes as amended made by Annie VanGelderren, seconded by Anne Ritchie.

Yeas: 6 Nays: 0

The motion carried.

C. Unfinished Business

A public hearing with the City Commission for the crayon box painting was held on Monday, May 18th, 2020. The recommendation to paint an electrical box was postponed until the City Commission receives a report on Terminating Vistas for downtown from the Public Arts Board. Following comments and questions by City Commission, an outline including notes addressing issues raised was then sent to the Public Arts Board and recommended to be included as an unfinished business agenda item.

A motion to accept the Notes and Outline letter on Terminating Vistas from staff and to add the subject to the Agenda was made by Jason Eddelston, seconded by Annie Van Gelderan.

Yeas: 6 Nays: 0

The motion carried

The PAB discussed what to do about Piano in the Park given the COVID-19 situation. It was recommended by staff that the PAB consider recommending an annual program so they don't have to go through an application process every year. There was general consensus that this route was best and that they will recommend a similar conditions from the first year for every year. In regards to social distancing, the Public Arts Board recommended having the piano available for public use when the playgrounds become available to everyone. It was also recommended that sanitizer be placed nearby as another condition. Staff indicated they would create a memo for next month involving recommended language for an annual piano in the park program.

A rough draft of a pamphlet for a "Call for Artist" was presented to the Public Arts Board. There was general consensus that the layout was effective in portraying most of the information they wanted. The Board also wanted to wait until budget approvals come through for 2020-2021 before putting together a final program for artists considering donating or loaning sculptures to the City.

Documents that were posted online providing sculpture information and coloring activities were reviewed by the Public Arts Board. A sculpture tour pamphlet and coloring pages had previously been posted on the City's social media platform, along with the Art in Public Spaces document for more information. The Public Arts Board was generally satisfied with the way the documents turned out. They also felt that Birmingham's Public Art website was beginning to make improvements.

Terminating Vistas were brought back onto the Agenda for further evaluation following City Commission's Comments on May 18th, 2020. The Public Arts Board wanted to create a more extensive document and go over a more elaborate list of possibilities for ways in which Public Art can be used to enhance Terminating Vista. City staff suggested that a more elaborate rough draft be created and commented upon at the next month's meeting. The document would list out various types public art to use, address the historical nature of downtown, and provide more concise policy recommendations. The Board agreed to review such a draft at the next meeting.

D. New Business

No new business was presented for the meeting.

E. Communication

Laurie Tennent discussed a possible art piece to be loaned to the City. The Board indicated they are looking forward to reviewing her application.

The Public Arts Board wanted to thank Anne Ritchie and members of the public for speaking in favor of the suggested Crayon Box painting during the City Commission Meeting May 18th, 2020.

F. Comments

G. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.