



MEETING MINUTES

Public Art Committee

Tuesday, April 9, 2013

6:15 p.m.

Noyes Cultural Arts Center, 927 Noyes Street, Studio 106

Members Present: Ryan Hall – Chair, Josh Barney, David Forte, Jenifer McCartney, Gay Riseborough

Members Absent: Judith Cohen, Mariah DeForest, Deborah Hirshfield, Amanda Wood

Staff Present: Jeff Cory, Cultural Arts/Arts Council Director; Jill Silverman, Secretary II Cultural Arts Division

Declaration of Quorum

With a quorum present, Mr. Hall called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF February 2013

A motion was made and seconded that the minutes of February 2013 be approved. Motion carried 5-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Washington National TIF Project – Mr. Cory reported having met with Mr. Forte, Ms. DeForest, Ms. Hirshfield, City staff, and artist B.J. Krivanek to review the proposed text and images developed using public input solicited through an online survey. Mr. Krivanek did not realize that there were multiple tabs in the Excel workbook with responses from the public, so he overlooked about 80 percent of the responses. Mr. Krivanek will review this data and incorporate it into the project planning. Mr. Forte mentioned that he found the artist team’s process very interesting and that he is excited to see the final installation.

STAFF REPORTS

Ten Thousand Ripples – Seven Buddha head sculptures have been installed throughout the Evanston community by a team led by artist Indira Johnson. Mr. Cory reported that some community members in the 8th Ward expressed concern over the location of the Buddha head that was installed on Howard Street, as well as the lack of advance communication with the neighborhood by the planning group. Aldermen Rainey has requested that the head be moved to a planter one block east at Howard St. and Clyde Ave. Mr. Cory will coordinate the move with City staff.

Two-Year Work Plan – The originally planned March presentation of the Public Art Committee’s Two-Year Work Plan to the Rules Committee was postponed to May 6, giving committee members an additional opportunity to review the proposed plan. Mr. Barney suggested adding the merger of the Arts Council and Public Art Committee to the work plan. Committee members discussed possibilities on how a merger might be carried out. Ms. Riseborough expressed concern over whether some PAC members

would have to step down if the committees were merged. Mr. Ryan recommended that the PAC not to add the merger to the work plan at this time, given the limited number of committee members in attendance to discuss the concept. Mr. Forte pointed to the Community Public Art Program, which has been dormant for the past few years, as a program that was well-respected by City Council members. He suggested that this program and a proposed Artist Bike Rack project might generate enthusiasm among the aldermen.

Arts Council Liaison – Mr. Cory reported that the Arts Council is discussing the idea of reinstating a liaison to the Public Art Committee. The PAC may want to think about appointing a liaison to the Arts Council as well.

evanstARTs – Mr. Cory said a final report is currently being written. A follow-up meeting will take place in May to discuss next steps.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Youth Job Center Mural – The group has proposed two possible sites – the north Metra retaining wall at Davis Street, across from the Michael Montenegro mural, or the underpass at the intersection of Lincoln St. and Ridge Ave. A social service agency called Peer Services has expressed possible interest in creating a mural at the Davis St. site. Mr. Cory is awaiting a reply from Peer Services to determine if they are still interested in creating a mural at the Davis St. location.

Church Street Dedication Mural – Mr. Cory recently spoke to Mr. Michael Rice, grandfather of Dajae Coleman, regarding a memorial mural that he was pursuing for a wall on Church St. near Veolia. Uncertainty remains regarding who owns the wall – tax records seem to indicate that a parent or affiliate company of Veolia owns the site, but Mr. Rice said that Veolia contends that the site is City-owned. Staff will seek a definitive determination regarding site ownership.

Loose History of Evanston Mural – Mr. Cory reported that he has left multiple messages for artist Mr. Theodore Boggs, without receiving a reply. Last fall Mr. Boggs had expressed an intention to submit a proposal for the creation of multiple murals this summer, but no proposal has been received.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Silverman
Secretary II, Parks, Recreation and Community Services