

Minutes

City of Fort Myers

Public Art Committee

February 22, 2023

The Public Art Committee of the City of Fort Myers, Florida met in regular session at the Oscar M. Corbin Jr. City Hall, 2200 Second Street, its regular meeting place in the City of Fort Myers, Florida on February 22, 2023 at 4:30 p.m. Present were Leila Mesdaghi, Chair, David Meo, William Taylor, and Ava Roeder. Absent were Bettye Middlebrooks, Victor Dotres, Carolyn Gora, and Molly Deckart. Also present were Tom Hill, Art Consultant, and Carrie Baxter.

Call to Order: Chair Mesdaghi called the meeting to order at 4:33 P. M.

Pledge of Allegiance: Chair Mesdaghi led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call: Taken by Carrie Baxter

Oath of Office: Lily Baker, clerks office, gave the oath of office to Ava Roeder.

Public Comment: (10:30 on Vimeo)

- A. Mr. Berry wanted to make this committee aware of a letter he wrote regarding plagiarism at the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center. To see his full comments, please refer to the City of Fort Myers vimeo recording.
- B. Mr. Ruocco, local artist and recipient of the Art's and Cultural Grant- shared his design and location of art work. The address for his mural is 3130 Martin Luther King Blvd. – American Legion Bldg.

Regular Items

1. **Approval of the January Art Committee Minutes.**

Motion: Committee member Taylor moved to approve the minutes of the January 2023 meeting; seconded by Committee member Meo; motion carried 4-0.

2. Input from Councilmember Bochette, City Council Liaison, (Ward Four).

Moved to next meeting date

3. Update from Parks and Rec.: found the leak in the panther and hope it will be repaired by next meeting. Uncommon Friends, found the leak and working on fixing that too.

4. Art Committee Plan for City Council: Every year the committees are suppose to prepare a plan of action document to present to city council. They were due in Oct, but with everything in need of repairs from the hurricane, the plan of action is complete has just been completed and shared with the committee.

Motion: Mr. Taylor, to move the art committee plan move forward to be presented to city council as is. Second Mr. Meo. Passed 4-0.

5. Art Fund- The goal is for this committee to plan a budget based on possible projections of future projects that would include potential revenue based on Ordinance 118.7.6C1. This ordinance states that 1% of the budget prior to issuance of a building or site work permit will be placed into an art fee fund. Site work and utilities are not included in this funding. On the City of Ft Myers' web site there is a list of capital improvement projects that include, but not limited to: Parks and Rec projects, City Structures, Public Safety projects, and others. These projects are projected to take place over the next 5 years. The goal is to create a protocol or procedure in which the art committee will be notified when the city pulls permits for projects and let all parties responsible for projects be notified that under this ordinance that the funds need to be calculated in the bidding process of the projects and then be placed in the art fund account. Mr. Hall will draft letters to Elgin Hicks requesting a workshop explaining the Ordinance 118.7.6C1 and discuss how to set the procedure in place. The workshop should include engineering and city permitting department. The city attorney will discuss the procedure for funding on a fire station that has been completed and no funding has been placed into the art fund account at the next meeting of the art committee.

6. River Mural Project The paintings may be viewed on the City of Ft Myers Vimeo account at 129-143). Thirty-six of the fifty-seven murals have scripts describing the mural and its connection to the City of Ft Myers and the River Basin. Twenty-one of the scripts have been sent out to the audio recorders. Sixteen to the English recorder have been complete, with 15 of them uploaded. Thirty-one historic points of interest will be added, ten of which are written. QR codes are being produced and will be placed around the paintings.

7. Bucks Backyard Guide Book: The guide book has been completed for Bucks Backyard. The CRA is printing hard copies of the book.

8. Voice over compensation: The individuals recording the stories for the mural project need compensation for their work. Each recording ranges between 5 and 8 minutes, plus prep time for recording. Discussion on the amount of pay was table until next meeting because addition research needs to be completed on compression pay.

9. Art Hub Status: There are 4 art pieces that need to be moved and a home found in Ward 6 for some to them. Still a work in progress.

10. Journey of Hope: A zoom meeting is planned between the artist and the engineering firm reviewing the project for March 1, 2023. The project completion date has been moved back to mid Fall.

11. Forum Park: Waiting on more work to be completed at the park before art work may be placed in the park.

12. Rachel at the Well: This committee has completed its job with Rachel at the Well. They have secured bids from a company to repair the statue and sent their recommendations to the appropriate individuals. The city is waiting and working with FEMA to find out how much money is going to be distributed for this project. The city is in a holding pattern waiting on Fema.

13. Stack Brands: A meeting is scheduled for March 21 with the painters and the paint suppliers. It is a 5 step process to complete the coating on the art piece. A sample has been sent to the paint suppliers to test the product to be used on the sculpture.

14. Spot Welding: Tom has not spoken to the spot welder as of today, but will continue to try and make contact to find out the cost and time frame.

15. Line table: Tabled until March meeting.

19. Parallel Park: Tabled until next meeting. Need additional input from the city attorney on the agreement made with Lee County.

20. Art Consultant: It does not appear that this position has been advertised nor has anything moved forward to moving this position to a 4-month contract, followed by a contract that matches the city budget.

21. Tribute to Chief Diggs: Tabled until next meeting in order to have further discussion.

A draft agenda is sent out about a week before the meeting. If anyone would like to add to the agenda or ask questions about the agenda, please send any additional items directly to Tom Hall.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Mr Taylor, seconded by Mr. Meo. Approved 4-0.

The next meeting is March 21, 2023.