

**MINUTES
CITY OF FORT MYERS
PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE
March 16, 2021**

The Public Art Committee of the City of Fort Myers, Florida, met in regular session at Oscar M. Corbin Jr. City Hall, 2200 Second Street, its regular meeting place in the City of Fort Myers, FL, on Tuesday, March 16, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. Present were: Carolyn Gora, Chair, presiding, Committee Members, Bettye Middlebrooks, David Meo, Betty Adams, William Taylor, Leila Mesdaghi, Patricia Collins (Arrived at 4:08 p.m.) and Ava Roeder. Also present were Councilmember Bochette, Ward Four, Grant W. Alley, City Attorney, Tom Hall, Art Consultant, Abraham Luna, Parks Senior Supervisor and Reva Daly, Public Works Fiscal Coordinator. Absent: Sharon McAllister.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Gora called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Gora led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

Roll call taken by Reva Daly.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

REGULAR ITEMS

1. Minutes of the February 22, 2021 Public Art Committee meeting

Reva Daly corrected the dollar amount in the Motion under item number seven, Purchase Order for Annual Conservation of Conserved Artworks, from \$13,000 to \$13,100.

MOTION: Committee Member Meo moved to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2021 Public Art Committee meeting; seconded by Committee Member Adams; motion carried 7-0 with the changes.

Committee Member Collins arrived at 4:08 p.m.

2. Update on Bucks Backyard Mural Project

Tom Hall, Art Consultant presented a slide show of photos on the current status of the panels of Buck's Backyard Mural Project at McCollum Hall. J.P. Almonacid's and Eric Schlake's differing methods and styles of painting were discussed. The project is on schedule to be completed by March 31st. Committee Member Adams asked if the Mural Society was planning an event for its completion reason being, because Mrs. Canady who is represented on one of the Panels and started the Easter Parade. Committee

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Member Adams said she received an e-mail at Black History Society from the Dunbar festival committee letting us know they are going to do the Easter Parade this year on April 4th and it is likely to go straight down MLK. Mr. Hall said that he believed that it would stop at the mural and there was something planned at the site. Including that it would be a great day for a ribbon cutting or a dedication to coincide with the Easter Parade celebration, but he needed to see what the Fort Myers Mural society had in mind.

3. Forum Park Next Steps

Tom Hall, Art Consultant recalled the suggestion at the last meeting by Donna Lovejoy, which was to go through an initial round of scoring of Yes, No and Maybe. He continued that the idea would be to pick a certain number of artists that you would want to advance and then wipe the slate clean and do a second round of scoring. Mr. Hall inquired if the committee still planned on having a supplemental meeting on March 30th. The committee decided to schedule the workshop meeting at 3:00 p.m. instead of 4:00 p.m. to ensure enough time to go over submissions.

MOTION: Committee Member Meo moved to have a special workshop meeting for the Art Committee selection beginning at 3:00 p.m. on March 30, 2021; seconded by Committee Member Taylor; motion carried unanimously.

Grant Alley, City Attorney clarified a workshop verses a meeting. He noted that a workshop would be a discussion among the board members with no voting or no official action, but if there is voting then it should be advertised as a meeting. Chair Gora confirmed that Committee Member Meo called it a workshop meeting. Chair Gora questioned the way the submissions were viewable on café. She stated that before we were able to score the artists complete work and we didn't score each artwork. She asked if the next round could look like scoring on previous calls. The committee discussed different ways to move forward ranking the rounds. Committee Member Meo inquired if each piece in the windowing process would need discussion, because our scores would be recorded on CaFE and those records would be available for the "Sunshine". Committee Member Taylor suggested having a list with everybody's scores that we approve in the minutes. Mr. Alley informed the committee that eliminating, deciding and deliberating are exactly what is supposed to be done in the "Sunshine". He noted that 99 percent of the work can be done at home, but when you are deliberating and voting on it as a board it should be done here. Mr. Hall asked Mr. Alley for future reference, because of another call to artist coming up, if this committee constituted a subcommittee to do the first round of evaluations, if that would not have to occur in the "Sunshine" Law. Mr. Alley replied if this board delegated its authority to a subcommittee, the subcommittee is then in the "Sunshine". He continued that the subcommittee would be able to fact find and present their report to the board and the board votes. He confirmed that if the board is eliminating it must be done within the "Sunshine". Chair Gora noted that it is to be done live. Mr. Hall assured the luxury of time and the process can be spread out. The Committee agreed that they are not prepared to begin ranking live at today's meeting. Committee Member Mesdaghi announced she needed to leave at 5:15 p.m. and would not be able to vote today. The committee discussed how to make the process more efficient. Reva Daly, Fiscal Coordinator changed the setting in CaFE

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from Monitor to Gallery to see if that corrected the view of all the artist work together, but that did not fix the issue. It was determined that the Call could not be viewed by Artist, due to the technology on CaFE when setting up the initial Call and selecting Jury by Artwork. The Committee Members would have to continue to judge per artwork. The technical issue was noted to be corrected with the next Call to Artists for the Veronica S. Shoemaker and Martin Luther King Boulevard art piece. Committee Member Taylor suggested a spreadsheet to track votes. Committee Member Collins suggested making notes on the Artists when ranking at home. It was suggested that when scoring each artwork that you could rank the artists three artworks all the same for a collective Yes, No, or Maybe ranking. Committee Member Meo noted that scoring them individually would work out the same. Committee Member Roeder suggested to just come in and discuss each one and rank them together as a committee. Chair Gora finalized to the committee to come back to the workshop meeting knowing our preferences to share out loud in the meeting. Chair Gora instructed the committee if they still have homework, they need to go through them and have an idea of what they are bringing to the meeting. She noted that we still score at home and it will just give us a base, but we bring each one so we can talk about them.

4. Appointment of Forum Artworks Selection Committee

Tom Hall, Art Consultant certified with Grant Alley, City Attorney if official action is needed, so that all nine committee members can be voting members on the selection committee. Mr. Alley replied yes, you should take official action for the selection process, so that it has been formally approved by the board. Mr. Hall explained the possibility of the committee appointing all nine members as a selection committee. Mr. Alley stated the board should adopt the selection committee and your scoring criteria. Mr. Hall announced Sharon McCallister's letter of resignation, but the effective date of the resignation was unknown. Mr. Hall added that it may be appropriate to discuss appointing all eight or nine members depending on the effective date of Sharon's resignation, as the official selection committee. That way all Committee Members can participate in the selection process and the ultimate decision. Mr. Alley stated the need to add that ninth member to prevent legal problems.

MOTION: Committee Member Taylor moved to assign all members of the Public Art Committee the seven voting members and two alternate members as part of the review committee for the selection of the work at the Forum; seconded by Committee Member Adams; motion carried unanimously.

5. Raising/Relocating What Dreams We Have Sculpture and Associated Conservation

Tom Hall, Art Consultant informed the Public Art Committee that the Community Redevelopment Association (CRA) is interested in raising What Dreams We Have in Roberto Clemente Park in order to make it more visible to passing motorist on Martin Luther King Boulevard. Mr. Hall presented pictures of the current location of the art piece displaying hedges that block its view. Mr. Hall proposed to the CRA that instead of just raising the sculpture, to move it. Mr. Hall presented pictures of the proposed location and specs of where the art piece is suggested to go and the opportunity to use

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the available sidewalk area for an asphalt mural. The Committee discussed the proposed area and the items included in the surrounding area such as the blue solar collector, the park sign, bench and trash cans. They also discussed the visibility the piece would have to passerby's on the road, the positioning of the art piece and a berm. Mr. Hall explained to the committee that the CRA is willing to absorb the cost of relocating it and Parks and Recreation is willing to absorb the cost of creating the berm and relocating the landscaping. Mr. Hall had a previous discussion with the Mural Society about adding an asphalt mural component to the project, and with the artist of the sculpture who is onboard to relocate it. Committee Member Taylor questioned if there was a better spot in the park than along the road. Mr. Hall noted that the CRA wanted to keep it visible to motorist passing by on Martin Luther King Blvd, but it could be discussed. Committee Member Adams noted the sheltered bus stop at the light of MLK and Ford Street. It was determined that the proposed area for the art piece is not a bus stop, but a resting stop. Committee Member Adams suggested the green space near the museum. Mr. Hall reminded the Committee that two of the Carmona Sculptures are going in the park, one being the Bongo Player being placed outside the Black History Museum on the cement pad surrounded by benches compliments of Committee Member Adams selecting the site. Mr. Hall stated that he would contact the CRA about an alternate location with-in the park that would be agreeable to them or if their interest in funding the relocation is only to keep it on MLK. Committee Member Roeder noted the sculptures small size and suggested the that it should face the direction the traffic is going, so at least they can see it as they pass, but to try to look from the other side of the street is a stretch. Mr. Hall informed the Committee of complications with the sculpture and presented photos of its current condition pointing out the corrosion, missing mosaics and protruding metal trim. Mr. Hall stated the damage is mainly because it was bathed with reclaimed irrigation water from the sprinkler system. The options to salvage the piece were discussed and at what cost. Mr. Hall noted he contacted Rosa Lowinger and Associates who provided a detailed report and the cost to salvage the sculpture is more than what was originally paid to commission it. Alternative sources such as contacting local metal sculptors who work in Fort Myers to salvage the sculpture at a more reasonable cost were noted. Committee Member Meo suggested another option to switch out the material and make the backside concrete. Other alternative materials were discussed, but it was concluded that once it is relocated and raised to make sure that it doesn't get doused with sprinkler water.

6. New Developments Relating to Otocast

It was determined that there was not enough time to go through the full presentation of Otocast and it will be added to the April meeting. Tom Hall, Art Consultant provided a quick thumbnail of what the presentation will entail next month, such as new developments and features associated with the free mobile app that allows you to add layered content. Mr. Hall announced Grant Alley referred the Historic Preservation Commission and they are interested in adding up to 50 historic buildings to Otocast that would complement the artworks. Mr. Hall explained gamification with-in the app which would tie into the Adopt-a-Sculpture program as a way of giving incentives to different private corporations and individuals, to sponsor an artwork by making them a

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featured stop and incorporating their place of business into the gamification ideas. Chair Gora inquired if the Historic Committee is involved if they have a budget that they can help pay for whatever some of the additional costs would be for Otocast. Mr. Hall stated that was discussed, but Nancy McFee at the Visitor and Convention Bureau informed him about a grant cycle that opens up next month where they have funding that would accommodate the additional Otocast cost. Mr. Hall concluded that either through the Historic Preservation Commission or through that grant we may be able to cover the costs of adding those points of interest.

7. Approval of Sponsor-a-Sculpture Program

Tom Hall, Art Consultant asked Grant Alley, City Attorney if the Adopt-A-Sculpture program was approved from a legal point of view and if it needs to be submitted to City Council. Mr. Alley noted yes and included that funding protocols need to be put in place and suggested that Donna Lovejoy review it. Mr. Hall asked if the committee needed to make a resolution to send it to City Council. Mr. Alley stated that a resolution is one way to do it, but you should vote on it and the board has to approve it, then you can present it to the Mayor's office or your liaison. Councilmember Bochette is our liaison and he can green sheet it for the Mayor and Councils consideration. Mr. Hall stated, so it sounds like we can take action on this in April then. Councilmember Bochette inquired if he created a green sheet if Mr. Hall would be able to speak to it at Council. Mr. Hall confirmed. Chair Gora noted that we have been waiting to get our annual plan presented and we are still waiting for our budget, she noted that it's been done since the beginning of the year. Councilmember Bochette directed that in that conversation that's one of the by the ways, if it is on City Council record you can always refer to it in writing. Chair Gora stated that it is brought up at each Public Art Committee meeting. Councilmember Bochette noted that the Council and he hasn't seen it.

8. FAPAP Zoom Conference – May 7, 2021 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Zoom call

Chair Gora reminded the Committee of the FAPAP Zoom conference on May 7th. Committee Member Meo inquired if the Committee will be made members of FAPAP. Chair Gora asked if Donna Lovejoy could be asked this.

9. Upcoming Public Art Committee meeting Tuesday, April 20, 2021

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Tom Hall, Art Consultant captured a picture of all the female members of the Public Art Committee for National Women's History Month.

The Public Art Committee welcomed Mayor Anderson to the meeting. Mayor Anderson announced his interest to place murals on the Hall of 50 states to spruce it up, after confirming he had seen the murals at McCullom Hall. Mayor Anderson thanked the Public Art Committee for all that they do and noted the importance of art. Mayor Anderson expressed his appreciation and thanked the committee.

Councilmember Bochette informed the committee of an opportunity for Public Art to possibly get involved in and he explained the details of 2.1 million dollars of earmarked

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state money set aside for road improvements between 41 and McGregor. Councilmember Bochette noted different areas with-in these specs, including the 10,000 daily ingresses and egresses at the intersection of Victoria and McGregor, as a focal point where a sculpture could go. He noted West First Street and Euclid as well, because the traffic problems in that area and what could be done about it. Councilmember Bochette stated he brought this up at Council and plans to get the Historical Commission involved. Chair Gora inquired if a portion of it could go to Public Art. Councilmember Bochette replied that he suspected it would if it is part of the road improvement. Councilmember Bochette concluded that he would have to look further into the opportunity and come back to the Public Art Committee to inform them if it all turns on, noting that the money can't go outside of that area and it has to be spent in that area or return to general funding.

Tom Hall, Art Consultant distributed an excerpt from the City of Fort Myers Public Art Ordinance to answer Committee Member Roeder's question from last month about what percent the Public Art Committee is supposed to reserve for maintenance. Mr. Hall stated that the Public Art Committee is supposed to reserve out of any incoming monies, between 10 and 25 percent. He continued that they are then supposed to certify to City Council and explain to them why we are picking that percentage.

Reva Daly informed the committee that she spoke with Donna Lovejoy in regard to the budget, noting that it will be available at April's meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, it was moved by Committee Member Taylor; seconded by Committee Member Adams; to adjourn the meeting at 6:03 p.m.