

MINUTES – PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE

July 21, 2020

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The Public Art Committee of the City of Fort Myers, Florida, met via Zoom, on Wednesday, July 21, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. Present were: Carolyn Gora, Chair, presiding, Committee Members, Betty Adams, Bettye Middlebrooks, Ava Roeder, Robert Sanford, Robert Ferry, and Patricia Collins. Also present were Tom Hall, Art Consultant, J.B. Schuetz, Parks & Beautification Manager, and Michele Jones, Administrative Assistant. Absent: David Meo.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Gora called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO FLAG

Chair Gora led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken by Ms. Jones. Committee Member Collins arrived late to the meeting

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Gora asked if anyone from the public would like to speak, seeing none, Chair Gora moved to Regular Items on the Agenda

REGULAR ITEMS

1. Minutes of the January 22, 2020 Public Art Committee meeting

MOTION: Committee Member Ferry moved to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2020 Public Art Committee meeting; seconded by Committee Member Roeder; motion carried 7-0.

2. Cypress Village Mural Project- Blue Sky Communities

Krystian Rozanski with Blue Sky Communities provided a brief background of the company and presented plans for a mural on the five story, 95-unit affordable housing development called Cypress Village that is currently under construction near the corner of Winkler Avenue and Colonial Boulevard. The mural design consisted of cypress trees with a blue-sky background for the front entryway part of the building. Committee Members discussed the plans of color theme, location, maintenance of mural, and the background of the muralist. Mr. Rozanski said he spoke with Tom Hall about the possibility of putting other artwork on the property as well. Ms. Roeder mentioned about the rules of no advertising on mural because Cypress Village was in the artwork and Mr. Rozanski said there will be words on the mural. Ms. McAllister asked if they compared it to the ordinance that governs murals and signs, and if he discussed his plans with the Fort Myers Mural Society. Mr. Rozanski said that he had not spoken with the Mural Society and was looking for any opinions and suggestions on what direction he needed to take. Ms. Gora suggested that Mr. Rozanski get in touch with Shari Shifrin with the Fort Myers Mural Society and asked Ms. Jones to send him the contact information.

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3. Update on Buck's Backyard- McCollum Hall Mural Project

Mr. Hall gave an update on the five appointed Selection Committee Members and the four that met in person to review the nine submissions that the Fort Myers Mural Society received in response to its Call to Artists. Mr. Hall stated that Greg Morris had a scheduling conflict and was unable to attend so he received the submissions electronically but were still awaiting his scoring card. Mr. Hall stated that Shari Shifrin was going to give Mr. Morris till Friday to turn his scoring card in before proceeding with just the four that were in attendance in order to give the three finalist enough time to prepare their presentation at our August meeting. Mr. Hall discussed with the committee members on how much time should be allotted for each presentation that would not include questions. Committee members agreed that at least 10 minutes should be given for their presentation. Mr. Hall stated that the three finalists will provide their background with credentials and samples of previous artwork projects completed.

4. Edgardo Carmona Relocation Project

Mr. Hall asked committee members if they would like to proceed with the relocation project or wait for a couple months till after the election is over to get more input on placement of artwork in Wards 4 through 6. Mr. Ferry suggested that it would be helpful if committee members could get a highlighted map of city owned properties in Wards 5 and 6 because of the limited areas available. Chair Gora and Mr. Ferry agreed that waiting till after the election may be a good idea. Ms. McAllister disagreed and said that it is the committee's job and that the new council will be too busy with the virus and racial equity going on at the current time. Mr. Hall suggested for the committee members to come up with a plan by the next meeting on whether to stay with original plan of placing three artworks at each of the wards, excluding ward 4 or just move two artworks to each of the five wards due to cost. Mr. Hall said that if they choose one of the plans then we could present the recommendations to City Council for them to decide and bring this item to a close. Mr. Schuetz stated that he will get maps of wards 5 and 6 that list city owned properties for our next meeting.

5. Update of Maintenance Manuals

Mr. Hall stated that all manuals have been completed and duplicated except for two. Parks has one manual set and Facilities has the other. Tootie McGregor Fountain- waiting on photographs from Christian and Fire Dance at Centennial Park we are waiting on two more quotes to repaint. Mr. Hall said that routine maintenance is being scheduled and done by Mr. Schuetz in Parks.

6. Update on website

Mr. Hall gave an update on the artwork that has been placed on the city's website. Mr. Hall stated that all exterior artworks, excluding one, have been completed which provides a photo of the art with the artist along with a brief description. The exclusion is the Robert E. Lee Bust which we are waiting on determination by City Council and City Attorney of ownership. The

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majority of interior artwork has been completed but not uploaded, which includes photo, brief description of art, and artist with bio. Mr. Hall stated that he contacted Barbara Hill who has sent over files that he is still going through but needs help in identifying two artists, Laurie Rockwell and Chari Moovadian. Mr. Hall discussed needing to re-photograph all the interior artworks and start research on the exterior decorative pieces for he can provide Lily with the necessary text to place items on the website.

7. Adopt-a-Sculpture Program

Mr. Schuetz stated that an email was sent out to Grant Alley last week to remind him, but we are still waiting on a response. Mr. Hall updated committee members stating that due to COVID and with so many businesses closing down it may be hard to find sponsors to underwrite the maintenance and artwork but that we are waiting on Grant Alley to provide us with the legal perimeters for the Adopt-a-Sculpture Program in order to proceed.

8. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard/ Veronica S. Shoemaker Boulevard- Median Landscape Project

Mr. Schuetz discussed the landscaping project conceptual that would include a piece of artwork in the center circle that is 30 feet in diameter. Mr. Schuetz said that he spoke with Michele Hylton last week with the Fort Myers Redevelopment Agency who will be coming up with the funding for landscape as well as subsidized artwork. Mr. Schuetz stated that we could start the procedure for the Call to Artist. Mr. Hall asked how much of the money that the CRA has allocated for the artwork. Mr. Schuetz replied that he didn't know percentage, but the total funding is \$100,000. Chair Gora asked about how much money was for landscaping. Mr. Schuetz stated that the cost of landscaping that goes from Evans Avenue to Ortiz Boulevard is a shared cost between the City and the Fort Myers Redevelopment Agency and that \$56,000 is the cost just for this landscape project. Ms. McAllister asked if the location was the triangular piece at traffic light with water basin behind it and Mr. Schuetz replied yes. Chair Gora asked if the \$56,000 for landscaping was part of the project and Mr. Schuetz replied that he believes that is separate from the \$100,000. Mr. Hall asked if we know what type of artwork or theme they have in mind and if it would be like a gateway. Mr. Schuetz replied that he believes the City Manager sees it as a gateway to the city. Ms. McAllister stated that she believes that it is extremely sensitive to include everybody. Committee members discussed if it should be a theme or be open when doing a Call for Artist. Ms. Roeder asked if it is a park area where people would go through and Mr. Schuetz replied no that it is more of an observation when at the light. Mr. Ferry mentioned it could be a gateway to Dunbar while committee members discussed it should be for beautification and not a gateway. Mr. Hall said that he could work on a draft that was to create something that is eye catching, visible to passing motorists and vehicles at stop lights, and something that would show that Fort Myers is a place that values art, culture and people. Mr. Hall asked Mr. Schuetz if the \$100,000 allocated for the artwork included the cost for elevating the Cheryl Foster piece for it can be seen from the roadway. Mr.

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Schuetz said that it was not and agreed that Mr. Hall should contact Michele Hylton to confirm the allocation of the money.

9. 2020 Biennial Fort Myers Individual Artist Grant Recipient Show

Mr. Hall stated that the 2020 Biennial Fort Myers Individual Artist Grant Recipient Show that was going to be held at the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center has been cancelled due to COVID-19 and are currently booked up with no makeup day available. Mr. Hall discussed options with committee members of maybe waiting till May 2022, look for a different venue, or do on a website as virtual exhibition. Ms. McAllister suggested Caloosa Sound that will be opening September 17th as well as spaces in the Luminary Hotel. Mr. Hall stated that out of the 12 artists that expressed interest, four are performance pieces and eight are visuals. Ms. Roeder liked the idea and asked if they have a COVID plan in place. Ms. McAllister discussed the schedule of upcoming events with the Home and Garden Show and the Boat Show that protocols are in place. Committee members discussed what has been done in the past and if there will be food. Mr. Hall stated that he believes the only expenditures last year were for signage. Ms. McAllister asked committee members if they want her to inquire about having event at the Luminary Hotel and if there was a tentative time. Committee members agreed and Mr. Hall said that we just need to give a 60-day lead time for the artist to prepare.

10. Update on the Arts & Culture Grants

Mr. Hall stated that there was a line in the last City Council meeting about the approval of funds, but he did not know who the recipients were or when the money would be disbursed. Ms. McAllister said that every individual artist that she knew of had signed their paperwork and received their check a couple weeks ago. Ms. McAllister asked about the budget for the next fiscal year and Mr. Schuetz said the budget workshop was next week and should be available via Zoom. Chair Gora asked if a list was available of grant recipients and Ms. Jones said she will check on getting a list to everyone. Mr. Hall suggested that the recipients be placed on the website with photograph and that he would contact Lily to see when she's going to resume on the website.

11. Upcoming Public Art Committee meeting on Tuesday, August 18, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

Chair Gora stated that the next Public Art Committee meeting is on Tuesday, August 18, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, it was moved by Committee Member Roeder; seconded by Committee Member Collins; to adjourn the meeting at 5:25 p.m.