

Public Arts Board Minutes

Public Meeting on Zoom – November 17th, 2021

A. Roll Call:

Members Present: Barbara Heller, Monica Neville, Annie VanGelderren, Marla Kaftan, Jason Eddleston

Members Absent: Anne Ritchie, Natalie Bishae, Nora Sherifaj (Student Rep)
Hadley Lovell (Student Rep)

Administration: Brooks Cowan, City Planner

B. Approval of Minutes – October 20th, 2021

Motion to approve minutes made by Annie VanGelderren, seconded by Monica Neville.

Yeas: 6 Nays: 0

The motion carried.

C. Unfinished Business

1. Ray Katz "Astral Projection"

Staff discussed the recommended location for "Astral Projection" by Ray Katz. When presenting the application to the Park and Recreation Board in November 2021, the area was also in discussion for pickle ball. The Parks & Rec Board requested the Public Arts Board comment on how a potential court and fence would impact the aesthetics and the application was postponed. The Public Arts Board felt it was best to wait and see which location is selected before considering the surroundings in depth. Staff indicated they would go to the December Parks and Recreation Board meeting in case Crestview Park was not selected for pickle ball.

2. Hank Marx – "Untitled 1" and "Untitled 2"

The Public Arts Board then reviewed potential locations for the two sculptures donated by the Marx family. At the previous meeting, the PAB commented that the owner would like at least one to be located near Quarton Lake, and the PAB suggested the landscaping area near Maple and S. Eton as another. Upon review, staff determined that the area at Maple and S. Eton did not have enough space between the retaining wall steps to accommodate either of the sculptures.

Staff provided a map of suggested locations around Quarton Lake. The Board discussed keeping the sculptures relatively close together as they are now. The PAB narrowed down their preference to the two green spaces just South of Oak Street on the east and west side of Quarton Lake. The Board was open to each sculpture being on the same side, or to have them face each other across the Lake. Staff indicated they could discuss the suggested locations with the owner and report back to the board at the next meeting.

D. New Business

The next item on the agenda was preliminary discussion for a 2022 call for entry. Staff recommended the Board pursue more interactive items in 2022 such as artistic furniture and crosswalk art. Pursuing enhancements for electrical boxes was also recommended.

The 2021 Terminating Vista Report recommended artistic furniture in specific locations. Staff recommended that the PAB pursue the locations of N. Old Woodward & Brown in front of the historical Peabody building, currently occupied by Adachi Sushi, as well as the intersection of Martin & Pierce Street. The PAB agreed these would be good locations for artistic furniture meant to activate public space.

The Board also discussed pursuing having an artist paint a crosswalk with a creative design. Staff would have to verify with the City if this was possible - the PAB felt like this would be a fun project to pursue.

In regards to the electrical box, the board discussed whether to focus it on one location, or to have multiple locations and have a theme. Having a theme related to the surroundings could help create more publicity.

Chalk artists were also discussed. PAB members have witnessed interactive chalk artists in Northville who create elaborate designs and allow the public to contribute to the drawing. The PAB indicated they would like to pursue this, however they prefer to keep it a special event, separate from the call for entry.

The PAB indicated a preference to host a chalk artist during day on the town when there is a large gathering and portions of streets are closed. This would be in the summer during late July. The PAB's other event, Piano in the Park, could host its painting event during Art in the Park which is in the beginning of May.

There was a general consensus that the 2022 call for entry should target two artistic benches, painted crosswalks, and an electrical box or boxes. Staff indicated they would verify the requests and provide a rough draft for December's meeting.

Staff would also verify potential events and dates for chalk art and piano painting for the next meeting.

E. Communications

Barry Harrison's Steel Horse was installed in Poppleton Park. The unveiling ceremony will be in the spring when the weather is warmer. The PAB may have a number of sculpture "unveilings" to do in the spring of 2022.