

Public Art Board

June 23, 2011



Members present:

Robert Todd, Chair
Julie Calhoun-Roepnack, Vice-Chair
Mark Koven
Kenn Kotara
Honor Moor
Jaan Ferree
Sharon Trammel
Nancy Sokolove

Staff present:

Diane Ruggiero, Cultural Arts Superintendent
Jenny Bowen, Cultural Arts Specialist
Christy Bass, Business Services Supervisor

Guests present:

Robert called the meeting to order at 4:04 pm.

1. Approval of May minutes:

Mark motioned to approve the May minutes, Nancy seconded, all approved and the motion passed unanimously.

2. Recognition of service:

Robert recognized Kenn for his years of service not only on the Public Art Board, but in the arts and being a leader in this area. Kenn thanked everyone and stated that he has enjoyed his time on the board.

3. Recommended board members to Council:

Robert stated that City Council has decided to interview selected candidates. Diane stated that these interviews will be held by the City Council appointed Boards and Commissions Committee group. She added that the Public Art Board has the unique opportunity to recommend a list of candidates for the two available vacancies. The Public Art Board recommended Gwynne Rukenbrod and Jennifer Gordon be interviewed by the Boards and Commission Committee.

4. Approve roles & responsibilities:

Kenn motioned to approve the roles and responsibilities as is, Julie seconded, all approved and the motion passed unanimously.

5. Approve regional artist policy:

Robert recapped the direction given by the Mayor for the Public Art Board to further define who is qualified as a regional artist, such as geographic location. Diane stated that this direction came through a CIP (capital improvement budget) budget workshop and that if there is a public art piece added to the collection, that it be from a local artist. She added that the board is being asked to provide further language to clarify the Public Art Board policy. Kenn stated that the board is set up to educate the people and when a call is put out, it is the same group of artists responding and this is something to keep in mind. Nancy stated that there can be a perception of favoritism when a call is put out to local artists vs. when a call is put out on a national level to bring in a new artist. Diane stated that this is only a draft and can be edited if needed. She added that this language will be presented to the Boards and Commissions Committee at the August meeting along with the roles and responsibilities and board name; there will not be enough time to make revisions at the July meeting.

Kenn stated that he would prefer to table this item to ensure that enough time is given for the consideration of the language. Diane responded that in speaking with public art programs/departments in North Carolina, the draft language provided is similar to what is already being used elsewhere. She added that this language is not so specific and there will be variations such as changes in the board and staff that will also change the interpretation of the language.

Jaan motioned to Special consideration will not limit the scope of the call but will provide special consideration for artists within the stated region and that the region includes the 17 counties in the WNC region, Mark seconded the motion and all approved. Kenn did not approve. The motion passed.

6. Approve board name:

Robert stated that since Diane oversees the Cultural Arts Department that it is important for the board to change the name to further reflect this. Robert asked if there is any difference between being called a board or a commission. Diane responded that according to the City Clerk, there is no difference in the naming and that City Council recognizes both equally. Sharon motioned to rename the board as the Public Art and Cultural Commission, Mark seconded, all approved and the motion passed unanimously.

7. Approve CIP project list:

Tabled until July

8. Approve maintenance plan:

Tabled until July

9. Committee Updates:

Kenn provided an update on the Urban Trail Guastavino's Monument station. He added that there has been discussion about moving it to the lot across from the Basilica Church, however the cost of moving the piece will be prohibitive. Kenn stated that Grace will contact Al Kopf, in the PRCA Planning and Development Division to come up with ideas. Diane stated that Al was involved in creating that station around the development that was happening at the time. There will be some construction to the parking lot and although the piece can go back into that location, the cost of

replacing the original pieces that are now lost, will come out of the maintenance fund. The Parking Department might pay for additional plants and some infrastructure improvements.

There will be no meeting in July for the Urban Trail sub committee.

10. Approve subcommittees and assign chairs:

Tabled until July

11. Appoint new chair to Urban Trail sub committee:

Jaan volunteered to lead the Urban Trail sub-committee. Kenn motioned to appoint Jaan as the chair, Julie seconded, all approved and the motion passed unanimously.

12. New business:

Diane stated that there are other departments who have asked the Cultural Arts Division and the Board to assist with several projects of interest. The first is for the mixed use building at 51 Biltmore. The Public Works Department will be providing \$25,000 for something on the outside entrance of the parking deck. Diane stated that she will gather more information for the board. The second project is the parking lot on the corner of Rankin and Hiawasse streets. The board has been asked to facilitate a mural with a donation of \$10,000 from Parking. Third, the Transit Department would like to have an art piece at the transit station, but are unsure of what. The Transit Department will follow the Public Art Board process and there will be an opportunity for a few board members to sit in on the Transit Board meetings to further discuss options. Robert, Sharon and Mark volunteered to meet with the Transit Board.

Robert stated that although Barry is not here, he is thanked for his service.

Robert motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:44 pm.