

Public Art and Cultural Commission

September 26, 2013

Members Present:

Robert Todd, Chair

Guillermo Rodriquez, Vice-Chair

Constance Richards

Julie Calhoun-Roepnack

Gwynne Ruckenbrod

Leslie Klingner

Sharon Trammel

Staff Present:

Brenda Mills, Office of Economic Development

Debbie Ivester, PRCA Assistant Director

Basil Punsalan, Event Specialist

Christy Bass, Interim Business Services Superintendent

Robert called the meeting to order at 4:08 pm.

1. Welcome New PACC Member

Robert welcomed Constance Richards to the Public Art and Cultural Commission and expressed his excitement to have her as a long-time arts supporter in Asheville.

2. Approval of August Minutes

Guillermo motioned to approve the August minutes. Julie 2nd the motion and all approved.

3. PACC Sub-Committees

Debbie shared the revised sub-committees guidelines explaining that she created some standards with items such as the meeting times, frequency and officers. She asked all Commissioners to review the guidelines to make sure that the original intention of the sub-committee has not been lost and to review the final format. When the sub-committee guidelines are approved they will be posted on the PRCA website. Debbie stated that the Urban Trail sub-committee guidelines have not been changed because this group already existed prior to becoming a formal sub-committee. Robert clarified that some members will be able to attend the meetings electronically. He added that there is a Chair vacancy on the Advocacy sub-committee and it is open for a nomination. Guillermo volunteered to Chair the Advocacy sub-committee.

Gwynne motioned to nominate Guillermo as the Chair of the Advocacy sub-committee. Julie 2nd the motion and all approved.

Robert stated that the Advocacy sub-committee will be an on-going process and will evolve as community engagement increases. He wants to make sure that the arts are on the minds of elected officials when they are making decisions.

Guillermo motioned to accept the newly revised sub-committee guidelines. Gwynne 2nd the motion and all approved.

4. Public Art Update

USCC Terrazzo Floor:

Debbie shared that the pouring of the new floor at the US Cellular Center is complete and the grinding of the artwork has begun. There is still a lot of work to be completed but the colors are starting to come through. All of the renovation work is scheduled to be completed October 17, 2013. Julie asked if we have stayed on budget. Debbie responded that we began the project with a budget of \$20K and that we are on budget.

Appalachian Stage Installation:

The Appalachian Stage installation is scheduled to have the statues reinstalled this Thursday. It will be a two day process to load up the figures, prep them for transport, and then to drill and install them the ground. Debbie added that a media alert will go out when the statues are reinstalled. Basil shared that Patty Miller has been able to work on the statues and apply new patina, and that the statues look really nice. Debbie added that Patty will do some touch-up work on the statues once they are reinstalled. Robert asked if there was an anchoring issue, like with the piglet. Debbie responded that when the pieces are reinstalled that they will have new anchoring added to help reinforce their stability for the future.

51 Biltmore Parking Garage:

Debbie shared that the Call for Artists was released on September 13, 2013 and as of today there are 18 applicants; three are local, 1 is from Raleigh, and the others are from around the US. The call is open until October 30, 2013. She is expecting a good response due to the project not being as technical as the terrazzo floor. Debbie shared that Sharon will be the PACC member sitting on the panel and that there will be two opportunities for public input. The first public input session will be in January 2014 with the intention of designing the session in a way to engage with the community, and reach out to those who may be most affected by the art, such as those living and working in the direct area. Julie shared that the bus wrap project was a good experience with slides of bus wrap proposals for the public could comment on. The artists were in the audience but they were not allowed to speak about their artwork.

All agreed that it would be great to add a public comment session around an already existing event to help create interest in the project. The selection panel will be selecting their finalists in November and ready to roll it out in January. The selection committee will make their top three selections based on qualifications and start the public input sessions with these three finalists.

Guillermo asked about the timeline on the Town Branch Greenway and if November is still the target for completion. Debbie responded that November is the proposed deadline for design submissions and that some of the project timelines have been pushed out. The Clingman Forest Greenway does not currently have a panel member.

Gwynne motioned to nominate Constance to the Clingman Forest Greenway selection panel. Leslie 2nd the motion and all approved.

5. Urban Trail Plaque Cleaning

Debbie reported that one item from the condition report was to have all of the Urban Trail art pieces cleaned two times a year. Last fall was the first scheduled cleaning and the spring cleaning has also taken place. Debbie reported that during each cleaning session half of the art pieces are being addressed, so over the course of a year all pieces have been cleaned. It is now time to schedule a fall cleaning and it is important to look at the process and capacity to carry out the cleaning twice a year and factor in staff time and cost. Debbie opened up the conversation of how frequently the plaques should be cleaned considering that the most recent cleaning cost about \$3000 in staff time, not including supplies. If the plaque cleaning were held twice a year the cost would be around \$10K with roughly \$3850 charged to the Public Art Maintenance and Repair budget line and staff time being absorbed into operating costs.

Debbie provided some scenarios for a cleaning schedule that included a cleaning day one time during the year and cleaning all plaques or cleaning half and then cleaning the other half the following year. Julie recommended Green works or a plaque sponsorship program since some of the plaques are located near businesses. Debbie mentioned that we need to be looking at our artwork more frequently because there are other pieces that have graffiti or gum on them and perhaps it would be necessary to start looking at the art work quarterly. Gwynne asked if each piece of art work needs to be cleaned yearly. Debbie responded that according to the conservation report, Patty suggested a varied cleaning time table depending on the initial condition of the art piece. This would be the opening conversation to start the process of determining how we look at a cleaning schedule for the art pieces.

Guillermo asked if there is an inspection schedule. Debbie responded that this is what she would like to implement on a quarterly basis to determine if there are any minor things that staff could take care of and also to identify the pieces that will need more major work, such as graffiti removal. Debbie would like to see the Maintenance sub-committee involved in this process.

Sharon suggested sub-contracting out the process to a qualified local artist. Gwynne liked the idea of contracting the plaque cleaning out. Robert stated that it is important to keep in mind that the plaques are different from the art pieces and recommended asking Patty for a less than ideal schedule since

cleaning the plaques once a year is not as feasible. Debbie said she will look at the cost to contract the cleaning out to keep the process in place and not let it fall by the wayside.

6. Assistant Director Report

Report provided in previous agenda items.

7. Old Business

No report.

8. New Business

Robert reported that the lunch with John Ostendorff, author of the Guastavino book, is tomorrow. This was organized through Black Mountain College and the Asheville Design Center. Robert expressed interest in trying to bring John back for the plaza work and other opportunities based on the Guastivino principles.

Debbie introduced Brenda Mills from the Office of Economic Development (OED), and the possibility of her being ready to be the staff liaison at the October meeting. Debbie and Basil will still be present and contributing to agenda items but Debbie will not be participating at the level she has been. Brenda discussed the on-going transition and how Parks and OED will be sharing some responsibilities. She is planning on January to having many of her current projects finishing up.

Guillermo mentioned that there has been renewed interest in culture and art festivals and asked that any new festivals or events be shared with the PACC. Brenda mentioned that Jon Fillman will be at an up-coming meeting to discuss the recent Request For Information seeking out new festival ideas.

Robert adjourned the meeting at 5:29 pm.