

Public Art and Cultural Commission Minutes for March 28, 2013

Members Present

Jaan Ferree
Leslie Klingner
Gwynne Rukenbrod
Julie Calhoun-Roepnack
Robert Todd
Guillermo Rodriguez

Staff Present

Debbie Ivester, Assistant Director
Alex Carmichael, Interim Special Projects Coordinator

Robert called the meeting to order at 4:09 p.m.

1. Approve February minutes

Guillo moved to approve the February minutes. Leslie seconded, and the motion passed with all in favor.

2. PACC Sub-Committee Review

a. Education – Appoint Chair

Robert proposed Leslie as chair of the Education Sub-Committee. Julie said she would like to serve on it also. Guillo asked for a review of the Sub-Committee's scope. Debbie gave an overview of the purpose, responsibilities, and powers; and she reviewed the roster of former members. Guillo asked if the Easel Rider was part of the purview. Debbie said that it was not, but it could be built into the program. Robert said that the Education Sub-Committee initiatives did not have to be targeted towards any specific age group. He stressed the importance of diversity and the need for building an engaging dialog around education. The possibility of an "anti-tagging" initiative was also discussed.

Robert moved to appoint Leslie as the Education Sub-Committee Chair. Gwynne seconded. All voted in favor and the motion passed. Julie will also join the Sub-Committee.

b. Advocacy – Honor

Honor was absent, but Robert reported that the Advocacy Sub-Committee would meet on an ad hoc basis, and would act at the direction of the PACC. Gwynne asked if the term lengths could be standardized across the sub-committees. Debbie said that she would be happy to edit "housekeeping" items as the PACC directed. Robert

discussed a need for flexibility. He suggested formalizing the sub-committees now, and revisiting scheduling issues in 6 months or so. Jaan liked the idea of consistency but also liked the idea of forming the sub-committees and fine-tuning them later. Guillo volunteered for the Advocacy Sub-Committee. Robert asked about item two under 'Purposes, Responsibilities and Powers.' He suggested that the language is not inclusive enough. Jaan suggested using the term "initiatives" instead of "proposal" and Guillo suggested adding "and their targeted audience."

Gwynne made a motion to accept the Advocacy Sub-Committee charter as amended; Guillo seconded. The motion passed with all voting in favor. Robert moved to add Guillo to the Sub-Committee. Jaan seconded. The motion passed with all voting in favor. Robert recommended that they go ahead and meet to get a game plan together.

c. Partnership/Community Engagement – Jennifer & Gwynne

Gwynne reported that she and Jennifer have not met yet, and asked to have this item moved to the April meeting.

3. Urban Trail Spring Cleaning Day Recap

Sharon was unable to attend, so Robert reported that the training is scheduled for Friday, April 19th with another training and cleaning day on Saturday, the 20th. Volunteer registration should be directed to Basil. Jaan asked to have refreshments again. Robert said that some of the local businesses might donate snacks. The Department pushed out a call for volunteers through Marsha Stickford, the Neighborhood Coordinator. She is working with the neighborhood associations, two senior centers, UNC-A Life Learning Center, local media and social media. PACC has the opportunity to push it out through its personal outlets as well. Please be sure to register with Basil if you are planning to participate. He has six volunteers so far, which includes some PACC members. The target number of volunteers is 15-20. Robert asked to be added to the list. Julie asked if there would be a dress code. Debbie said no. Debbie said that the Department would provide gardening kneeling pads. She also discussed water distribution by way of a City water truck.

4. Urban Trail Station 15 Market Place Update

Debbie discussed the "Apple Bench." There is a need to take action to detour people from gathering at this location. PACC discussed the possibility of putting a divider on the bench. According to APD, the safety concerns are escalating, as the weather gets warmer. Debbie spoke with Al Kopf and Jaan about modifying the bench sooner, rather than later. Al recommended shortening the bench so that it is only a stand for the artwork with no seating, which would buy time to develop a more permanent solution. Shortening the bench would maintain the current aesthetic without the seating functionality. Jaan said that the UT Sub-Committee would support any action

on a short-term basis that preserved the artwork. Robert noted that this is an interim solution. Debbie noted that it is located on private property, which raises potential problems. It is possible that another location may be chosen for the artwork in the long run. The intention is to keep it on the same block. Shortening the bench would be a 6-8 month solution.

Guillo raised concerns that people would just sit on the statue itself. He wondered if it would be better to take the whole piece out. Shortening the bench might not solve the loitering issue, and the artwork might get damaged in the process. Julie noted that tourists often put their kids on the animal Urban Trail stations and they don't get damaged. Debbie said that all of the artwork gets climbed on, leaned on, used for tying up pets, etc. Jaan raised fears about artwork getting lost while in storage. Robert asked if the concrete slab would be removed. Debbie said that would have to be determined; it is on private property.

5. PACC Presentation to City Council Recap

Robert thanked the PACC for the assistance with the presentation of the annual report to Council and noted that there was good feedback from Council and the Mayor. City Manager, Gary Jackson has facilitated the inclusion of PACC in a meeting of the chairs of boards related to economic development. Robert sees this sort of information gathering as the next step for PACC. He would like to see PACC assist with re-developing the job description for the former Cultural Arts Superintendent position. Gwynne mentioned that the Mountain Xpress published a positive article covering the presentation and the issues that were discussed. Jaan thanked Debbie for "keeping the wheels together" during this transition period. Debbie commended PACC members for all the work and time they have committed in the last few months in service to the City. Robert thanked Alex for his work on the PowerPoint component of the presentation.

6. Assistant Director Report - Acquisition and Maintenance Chart

Urban Trail "Appalachian Station" is off display and in storage at the Park Maintenance facility on Clingman and Hilliard. Artist Bob Gurskey supervised the removal. One plaque was missed, which will now be removed and cleaned. Conservator Patty Miller will begin restoring the artwork. The Department did a follow up on the "Left of Center" repair. That work needs to be done in the right weather (early May), when it is not too cold, nor too hot.

Julie asked if Patty could explain why it corroded the way that it did. Debbie said the artist reported it is the nature of the material. Gwynne stated such corrosion should not happen. Debbie said the Department is looking into what it needs to do during this time of repair to avoid such maintenance needs. Robert noted that the powder coating used to protect the work never really performs very well on steel. Stainless

steel should have been used at the beginning. Gwynne asked if the quality of the weld determined the extent of the wear with powder coating. Robert said yes. Gwynne said that is an important component. Debbie said that touch-ups might be a possibility to enhance durability over time. Julie asked if the original contract guaranteed durability. Debbie said that it was a one-year warranty, which has since expired.

Robert asked when the call for artist for the Cellular Center floor would go out. Debbie asked Jaan if she had been involved in the communication related to that. Jaan said that she had not. Debbie said that the Department is talking with the contractors about getting more realistic design information to include in the specs for the call for artists.

Gwynne asked if they could send a "get well" card to Basil, who is out on medical leave. Debbie said that she would be happy to get one to him.

Jaan asked if the stolen fiddle at the Urban Trail "Appalachian Stage" would be replaced by the time the station would be reinstalled. Debbie said that the Department has little-to-no records from the Urban Trail stations. Years ago, when the City went into a partnership with the Asheville Area Arts Council, the files were transferred to their basement, which subsequently flooded and the files were destroyed. Debbie knew that some of the Urban Trail pieces were purchased from a catalog, but the only report available on the fiddle just says it was made by "UNCA Students." Jaan said that the Asheville Area Arts Council still has some of the old files. She remembered a call for artists that was awarded to a man from Texas. Debbie said that the Department typically goes back to the original artist if they are available. More information is needed in order to decide whether or not to replace it. City insurance will not cover the cost of replacement since it has a \$25,000 deductible and replacement cost is expected to be less than that. Jaan asked if the City would accept a donation for replacing it and Debbie said yes. Jaan said she would get the artist's information as soon as possible. Debbie said she would check with the Asheville Area Arts Council about the files.

7. Old Business

None.

8. New Business

Robert noted the article on creative place making in the Public Art review and suggested that everyone read it.

Gwynne mentioned that the Governor has released a new budget that cuts arts funding, so she encouraged everyone to make their voices heard with state

legislatures. Robert suggested framing those discussions around leveraging arts funding as economic development for the state.

Robert adjourned at 5:24 p.m.