

**Public Art & Cultural Commission**  
**October 2, 2012**



**Members Present**

Robert Todd, Chair  
Jennifer Gordon, Vice Chair  
Jaan Feree  
Leslie Klingner  
Julie Calhoun-Roepnack  
Sharon Trammel  
Honor Moor

**Staff Present**

Roderick Simmons, Director  
Basil Punsalan, Cultural Arts Administrator  
Abigail Riley, Special Projects Coordinator  
Jenny Bowen, Cultural Arts Administrator

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

**1. Approval of August Minutes**

Jennifer moved to approve the August minutes. It was seconded by Sharon. All approved, and the motion passed unanimously.

**2. Cultural Arts Division Interim Operations**

Roderick presented the Cultural Arts Division operational plan. Debbie Ivester will be the staff liaison to the Commission in the interim. The Commission will continue moving forward with their projects.

Al Kopf will manage all public art projects and installations. Sandra Travis will be handling the programming and supervision of Basil Punsalan and Jenny Bowen. Jenny will handle the cultural arts program advancement and the mobile art program. Basil will handle the grant programs and support for Sandra, Debbie, and Al. The special projects that Diane had been working on will be on hold.

The position will be posted, but the City needs to go through a review process that happens when any position opens. When the position is released from this process and ready to be hired, it will be advertised through all normal channels the City uses to post open positions.

The Western North Carolina Nature Center is currently going through the same process the golf course went through. Staff is reviewing the options before deciding to issue a Request for Qualifications (RFQ). Over the past year, Council has asked departments to reduce subsidies. All operations are being reviewed to figure out how to create revenue and keep up with the costs and inflation.

Julie asked about the timeline to post the position. Roderick said that it would be approximately four months. Julie added that she thinks it took six months when Diane was hired.

Julie asked if the Nature Center will continue to be a part of the division. Roderick does not know how the Nature Center operations will fit into the future of the position.

Honor asked about grants programming. Roderick said the Department does not currently have the infrastructure to manage the grants. She asked if any of grants had already been publicly announced. Roderick said they had not been announced yet. Honor asked if the funding for the programs would be lost. Roderick said no.

Robert said that Debbie had mentioned the City had retracted their requirement to review the position. Roderick said all mid-level manager positions are being reviewed to see if there are alternatives for the position.

Robert asked if the position would be filled. Roderick said that it would be filled. He added that the role and responsibilities of the position are still to be determined.

Robert said there was a citizen panel to review applicants for the position in the past. Roderick said they would involve the community and key stakeholders in the process.

Robert said that if there is a need for programs to be offered but not enough staff is available, ask the commission members to assist. Jenny Bowen added that she needs assistance with the Night of 1000 Easels on October 14<sup>th</sup>.

Roderick hopes to maintain the majority of the programming. He will keep the commission members posted.

Jennifer asked if staff hours were increased and if Diane's salary could help to offset those costs. Roderick said that staff hours had not increased. The way in which the budget works, the Department is not able move money between part-time positions and full time positions, as those monies come from different budgets. Policies do not allow for that. Robert added that benefits are also an issue. Roderick added that if there were programs that were not being properly managed, they would bring in staff from other divisions to help. Jenn asked if a request could be made to increase staff time. Roderick said that is not how the process works; however, he will maintain the services and projects currently ongoing in the Cultural Arts division. Sharon added that from her experience working for the State of North Carolina, there are different pots of money, and it cannot be moved. Roderick added that by law employees must be compensated for their work. Staff will continue to work their hours.

Robert asked if any of the funds set aside for grants administered by the division would be lost. Roderick said they would not.

Julie added that Debbie Ivester had been a good interim liaison in the past.

### **3. Public Art Maintenance & Capital Projects**

Roderick gave an update on the current public art maintenance and capital projects.

#### **Aloft**

The City is in partnership with that property owner. The garage is City-operated. One percent of the costs for the garage will be attributed to public art for this capital project. A

call for artwork will go out for the wall closest to Aston Street. The contract will start in November, and the private partners the City is working with will have one year to finish the project.

Sharon asked what the contingency plan is if the workforce housing project does not come to fruition. Roderick said that Public Interest Projects are finalizing its funding.

Julie asked for the square footage of the backside. Roderick did not know nor did he know how much of the area would have public art installed.

Jennifer inquired about the budget for the public art project. Roderick said approximately \$25,000.

Julie said that on Friday, October 5<sup>th</sup> Kenn Kotara will be having a reception. Members could discuss this further there.

Sharon added that all art in the hotel is local.

#### US Cellular Center Floor

A terrazzo floor will be installed in the main entrance of the Civic Center. Jennifer asked if the terrazzo will transition to the exterior. Roderick said that is a decision to be made in the future. Julie added that terrazzo is a sustainable element.

#### Urban Trail Station #13

Appalachian Station statues will be put in storage while the exterior of the Civic Center is complete.

Robert said that he had a conversation with Debbie that he would like to see the statues be installed to allow for the continued participation of citizens. Roderick said the architect can present the plans of the design to the Commission when it is complete.

Jennifer asked for a timeline. Roderick said he would have the architect give that information during a presentation to the Commission.

Robert asked if Basil would be in charge of storing the piece. Al Kopf will work with Basil, as he is maintaining the public art in the absence of a Cultural Arts Superintendent. Before she left, Diane gave Basil contact information for storing the art, and Patty (the conservator) can restore it while in storage.

#### Triangle Park Mural

The mural in Triangle Park is approximately 50 percent complete.

#### Magnolia Park Mural

Jennifer said that the project had not begun. She heard that the design had changed. Roderick was not aware of the changes. He will follow up on the Magnolia Park Mural status and update members.

#### Vadim Bora Plaque

Basil said that he is in the process of obtaining the plaque, as it has been ordered. He is talking to Al Kopf and Public Works to get the plaque dropped in the sidewalk.

Jennifer asked if Constance commissioned the plaque. Basil said she had. Robert and Sharon added that it would be nice to do a dedication of the plaque.

#### Pack Square Park Railing

*Left of Center* in front of the fire station on the patio that overlooks Pack Square Park is rusting. Roderick said that due to this coming into the City's ownership, it is the responsibility of the City to maintain it. Robert asks to be kept posted on the status of its maintenance. In addition, Robert wants to have the members kept informed about maintenance standards.

Julie asked if the artist is from Black Mountain and if the artist had been contacted about the deteriorating condition of the piece. Roderick said that due to the relationship of the Conservancy and the way in which the park was transferred to the City, the City does not have that historical information. Julie offered to find out information on the artist, if possible.

#### **4. PACC Appointment to Review Panel**

##### Aloft Hotel Garage Entrance

Jennifer volunteered to work with this project.

Julie asks how much time is involved. Roderick said it would be up to the member as whomever the Commission appoints would be directly involved.

Julie nominated Jennifer to be the liaison to the Aloft Hotel Garage Entrance project. Honor seconded it. All voted in favor, and the motion passed unanimously.

##### US Cellular Center Floor

Jaan volunteered to work on this project.

Julie said that Jaan would be a good fit because it ties in with the Urban Trail.

Robert said there are aspirations for this floor to be a showpiece.

Sharon moved that Jaan be the liaison. It was seconded by Honor. All voted in favor, and the motion passed unanimously.

Roderick will get Jaan the information as it moves forward in January.

#### **5. Commission Vacancy Update**

Abigail said the seat would be filled. She will be sending out an update from Maggie Burleson on the status of the vacancy.

Leslie and Honor asked if Maggie will be advertising the vacancy or pulling from past applications. Abigail will find out Maggie's plan and update the Commission.

#### **6. Subcommittee Updates**

##### Maintenance

Basil thanked everyone who participated on September 15<sup>th</sup> for cleaning the Urban Trail plaques. Volunteers and Commission member cleaned 16 plaques, with 11 plaques remaining to be cleaned. Patty Miller, the conservator, trained participants. The biggest challenge of the day was getting water to all the stations.

Sharon thanked Honor, Jaan, and Robert for helping to clean the plaques. She also thanked all the volunteers. She would like to see more Commission members in the future. Patty trained 15 volunteers to clean, and she said that a total of 20-25 trained people would help this effort go smoothly in the future.

Sharon said that it was discussed to put the plaques on a rotation for cleaning. The subcommittee will determine which plaques are heavily travelled upon and make a determination on how often the plaques should be cleaned. She requested that the Commission determine two Saturdays in April to finish the project.

Jaan mentioned contacting Warren Wilson, UNCA, and the Downtown Association to help find volunteers. She recommended the Maintenance subcommittee implement an adopt-a-plaque strategy.

Sharon proposed that Patty come again to further the training. Next time, Sharon would include bamboo skewers in the supplies, as they would have been beneficial in the cleaning process.

Commission members finalized April 20, 2013 as the next day for plaque cleaning. The rain date will be April 27, 2013.

Basil said would be better to be centralized around Pritchard Park. Sharon suggested the Police Department outpost on Haywood Street would help. Jenny Bowen said she would look into it.

Julie asked how much water was needed to clean each plaque. Jenny said approximately three gallons. Robert added that Pritchard Park should have water access. Sharon suggested contacting the businesses in the area to donate water.

Sharon said that many people stopped to ask what they were doing. She suggests having Urban Trail brochures during the next event.

### Urban Trail

The subcommittee is creating a letter to educate people on who Guastivino is. They are compiling this document as a resource. Jaan believes there is money in the budget to replace the Guastivino plaque, and she wants to purchase it now.

Julie expressed dismay at the situation. Jaan added those who donated over \$500 should be honored. Robert wanted to put buying a new Guastivino plaque on the agenda for October.

## **7. Old Business**

Robert gave an update on the Guastivino station. The City has approved the sale of the property across from the Basilica to the McKibbon group. The City has moved forward, but it is in a transition stage. There may be discussion about easing a portion of the property back to

the City in order to integrate the piece at the top of the plaza. It is not a contingency within the purchase that they do this. There would need to be discussion.

## **8. New Business**

Jenny introduced National Arts and Humanities month. The Cultural Arts Division wants to take note of this month by having a Creative Conversation panel that includes a discussion about public art and new ways to approach public art. It is scheduled for October 11<sup>th</sup> at the Dr. Wesley Grant, Sr. Southside Center from 7pm to 9pm. Jack Becker, who puts out the Public Art Reviews, will be the guest of honor. George Sheer and Monica Campana will also be panellists. The event needs a moderator, and Jenny asked for suggestions. Sharon suggested Kenn Kotara. Jenny encouraged members to let their networks know. Sharon suggested asking Tony Kiss to announce it on his radio show.

Abigail encouraged everyone to attend the Facility Tour on October 5 from noon to 5pm to understand the scope and depth of the Department. Julie asked if it would be produced again in January. Abigail said that it would be given again, but she was not sure of the timeline.

Honor asked the Commission to consider changing the meeting dates and times to accommodate Gordon Smith and other members. Julie agreed. She added that it was originally changed for members who are no longer on the Commission. Robert said that Tuesdays might be difficult due to City Council meetings.

## **9. Adjournment**

Robert adjourned the meeting at 5:38pm.