

*Public Art Board - Minutes: March 24, 2009*



**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Barbara Cary, acting Chair    Harry Harrison  
Barry Pate                            Julie Calhoun-Roepnack

**STAFF:**

Diane Ruggiero, Cultural Arts Superintendent  
Christy Mahle, Administrative Assistant

**1. Approval of April Minutes:**

Julie motioned to accept the April 2008 minutes. Harry 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All approved and the motion passed unanimously.

**2. Energy Loop Placement:**

Diane mentioned that she attended a meeting with Kenn and the Pack Square Conservancy Director, Gary Giniat and the Conservancy Board Chair, Guy Clerici and Assistant City Manager, Jeff Richardson, to discuss placement of the Energy Loop. She shared the concern of the amount of public art already going into the park and the location of the Energy Loop. Jeff asked Kenn and Diane if they had looked at any other locations downtown, and mentioned that the Public Art Board has a strong commitment to putting the loop back in the Park. Diane agreed to continue looking for alternate spaces downtown, per Jeff's request. Diane asked about putting the loop on the grassy area near the new parking deck for Buncombe County Health Department. Barbara asked if there were any new objections from this meeting. Diane said no. Barbara stressed wanting to find out what Gary Jackson thinks about putting the Energy Loop in a location that is not the park.

Diane added that Bob Gursky has been charging \$200 a month for storage and she is thinking about asking Bob to hold on to the Loop for a few more months so that it does not have to be moved prior to moving it to the park in July. Barbara stated that she thinks that the City management appears to have done a complete turnaround on their position and the Board may want to have a conversation with Gary Jackson again. Diane mentioned that she will pass this information along to Kenn so that he can pursue the meeting with Gary.

**3. Urban Trail Update:**

Diane mentioned that she did a walk around the Urban Trail with Stellar Media and 3 tour guides recording the audio tour. She added that she will be going for a second round of audio tours with additional people including Harry Harrison to talk specifically

about the history of the block. Stellar Media thinks that they have a lot of information already, but will listen to what Harry can add. There will be three audio tours: one 2-hour full length adult version, one 1-hour abridged adult version and a children's version that is based on a 4<sup>th</sup> grade level to also be used in the classroom accompanying pictures of the pieces. Tours will still be available for the several historical trolleys and segway tours. Diane added that the Urban Trail committee is still working out how and if volunteer lead tours will operate in the future. The Asheville Area Arts Council will be trimming down their staff and Diane will be meeting with the Director to officially end the 2001 agreement of the Arts Council's role in marketing the Urban Trail.

Diane stated that the re-dedication of the Art Deco Masterpiece will be happening on May 19, 2009. She added that there has been some discussion of scaling back the Urban Trail committee to possibly meeting quarterly instead of monthly. They need to report to the Public Art Board for any concerns that they may find.

Diane reported that the Flat Iron piece is being repaired and reinstalled due to an accident. The original artist, Reed Todd, will be stripping and completely refinishing the Flat Iron before replacing it, which should be replaced within a month.

#### **4. Board Appointment:**

Barbara asked if this was to put a permanent seat on the Board for the Arts Council. Diane responded that Kenn has been dealing directly with Jan Davis, who is Chair of the City Council Boards & Commissions committee. Kenn is the liaison on this, not staff.

#### **5. Old Business:**

Barbara reported on the recent half day workshop with the Foundation. The Foundation is in a good financial state and has received significant money from the City. They have added a significant number of easements to be able to connect greenways together. Barbara mentioned that they might be a good group of people to support. Diane asked if they have spoken about their thoughts on public art. Barbara responded that the Foundation is supportive of public art and is interested in working with the Public Art Board. She thinks that the board needs to choose a recognizable theme to pursue on the greenways. Diane asked how the foundation sees their role with the Greenway Commission. Barbara stated that she did not know and reiterated the need for a recognizable image for the City. Julie pointed out the amount of cost involved in maintaining a greenway. Barbara mentioned that the Foundation has plans for extending greenways and will have a landscaper come in and help with design. Barbara asked about the putting Public Artist of the Year art on a greenway and possibly morphing the Urban Trail Committee in to a sub committee that could oversee this new idea. Barbara stressed the need to have a solid plan for this.

#### **6. New Business:**

Diane updated the board on Pack Square Park stating that the first portion of the park called Pack Square will be turned over to the City at the end of April. There are significant pieces of public art coming into this area, and this art will need to be repaired and reinstalled. She has been attending some meetings with the Conservancy, Valley

Crest, City Engineers and the artist Hoss, who is working on two pieces: the fountain and pergola. Due to the compressed timeframe, Hoss is behind on the completion of the pieces and is working with the Conservancy on a modified time schedule. There has been a conversation of turning over the area called Pack Square without the public art finished. This is a contract between the artist and the Conservancy. Some members of the Urban Trail committee were concerned with the re-installation of the pieces so that they are all positioned correctly.

Diane discussed the mid-block park (between Spruce Street and Market Street) the Randy Schule piece is being held up because of the delays with the pavilion. This piece is tied to the pavilion and there is no money for the pavilion. They are commissioning a railing around this area that will become another City piece of public art. The Rodger McGuire Green (plaza) should be turned over to the City at the end of July. Kathleen Triplet will be doing the pavers and tiles and Hoss Hailey will be doing the pergola over the stage. All of the maintenance will be taken care of by the PRCA department and Diane added that she will oversee the art and permits. She added that she would like to catalog all of the tiles from Kathleen Triplet for a rendering, since one does not exist. Kathleen will be responsible for the installation of the tiles. Diane is unsure about what kind of a warranty the City is getting and would like to have extra tiles made in case one breaks. Barry asked if the stage is going to be the main stage for things like Bele Chere. Diane responded that she would like to exclude Bele Chere from this conversation. He asked what the role of this stage will be. Diane stated that it has not been classified as a main stage and could be used for Shindig on the Green and smaller events. Diane is working on limits for the park.

Meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.