

**ARTS COMMISSION MINUTES**  
**April 28, 2020**  
**City Hall, Conference Room #6**

**Attendees in Person:** Jennifer Drake, Amy Ferguson, Troy Tymesen, Stephanie Padilla

**Attendees via ZOOM:** John Bruning, Teresa Runge, Mary Lee Ryba, Mag Behrmann, Zoey Hart (Alternate Student Rep), Alyssa Livingston (Student Representative), Lindsey Sichelstiel, Amy Evans, Bev Moss

**Guests:** Dean Haagenson

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Drake called the meeting to order.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION:** There were none.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There were none.

**REVIEW/CORRECTIONS/APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Ryba, seconded by Commissioner Runge, to approve the February 25, 2020 minutes. Motion carried.**

**REVIEW/CORRECTIONS/APPROVAL OF CURRENT FINANCIAL REPORT: MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Bruning, seconded by Commissioner Moss, to approve the March, 2020 Financial Report. Motion carried.**

Mr. Tymesen commented that the commission did not spend any money in March, but did spend some money from the Art Maintenance fund. Ms. Ferguson will check on what the expense was for [lighting for Public Art in McEuen].

Mr. Tymesen mentioned that ignite is looking at their upcoming budget and he is in communication with them on projects that the Arts Commission has in the pipeline in the River and Lake District.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:**

There were none.

**STAFF COMMENTS:**

There were none.

**DISCUSSION RE: PLACEMENT OF “SUFFRAGETTE” STATUE:**

Dean Haagensen said that Terry Lee informed him that the plan was to put the “Suffragette” where the current statues are located on Front Street. The theme for the existing statues is “industry.” Mr. Haagensen commented that the “Suffragette” deserves to be honored, and more especially this year, but that it is a political achievement and not related to “industry.” He

believes that the statue should have a special place of honor and thinks that a more appropriate location could be found than having the statue being included with the “industry” statues.

Chairman Drake asked Mr. Haagensen if he had spoken to Mr. Lee about it. Mr. Haagensen said that he had talked to Mr. Lee and Mr. Lee told him what the plan was. Mr. Haagensen shared with Mr. Lee his thoughts regarding the placement of the statue, and noted that he also spoke to Commission Ryba about it. Chairman Drake told Mr. Haagensen that she appreciated his comments and it was good to hear from the public.

Councilmember Evans asked what the agreement was in regard to funding, and if it was the commission’s understanding all along that the statue would be placed with the current collection. Mr. Tymesen confirmed that the “Suffragette” is fully funded and they are looking forward to a dedication. He suggested that based on Terry Lee’s work, it was presumed that the statue would be placed with the collection. He further noted that he was not sure if the specific location was mentioned to the donors, but they did definitely see what the product would be in the end. Chairman Drake said that she thought they did tell some of the donors, and always said that the goal was to get a female in the series of statues on Front Avenue. She is not sure how explicit anyone was, but knows for a fact that the location was in the general selling points of getting the statue funded.

Mr. Haagensen said that the theme of the statues doesn’t fit and the “Suffragette” seems to be entirely different. Chairman Drake responded that it was a choice between Mr. Lee and a lot of the people that were donating. Commissioner Moss said that she thinks there is a problem in regard to the donors because the location was the understanding, but when the commission first started talking about it, they were talking about a nurse. She commented that she had the same problem in that she doesn’t think it fits. She also wondered if they could have two women in the collection, not just one.

Chairman Drake said that the reality is that the artist vision behind each piece has always been Mr. Lee’s, and the donors for each statue have a background in the area and history of the industries, etc. With the woman, it was a little bit trickier. She commented that she agrees that it was a bit of a surprise when the “Suffragette” was chosen, but noted that even if what she is representing doesn’t fit, the commission will have a major problem if they take the one female statue and segregate her and put her somewhere else. She commented that maybe it doesn’t necessarily go with their idea of the theme, but the theme to her is people who historically worked really hard to get something done, and you can throw the suffragette movement into that. She further commented that art is very subjective and they have always given Terry Lee the artistic carte blanche to do what he wants with the pieces, and he chose the “Suffragette.” She thinks that it is a little late in the game to say that the statue doesn’t fit and put her somewhere else. It was Mr. Lee’s decision and what got funded and approved. She would not vote to put the statue somewhere else.

Commissioner Behrman said that her concern was the same that if the statue were moved, it would probably be an issue and people might misunderstand why she wasn’t with all the others. Chairman Drake agreed and said that no matter how good the commission’s explanation was, they would still be sending a very bad message.

Commissioner Ryba said that she agreed that the “Suffragette” is a little out of place at the Front Avenue location, and it would have been better to have a Farragut nurse. She further commented that it is “never too late until it’s too late,” and thinks that the commission should think about it and look at different options before completing the installation. Chairman Drake said that they should definitely have a conversation with Mr. Lee. She also commented that it would be great to have two female statues, but the reality is it was a bit of a push to get one statue funded. They can put some feelers out and see if there is funding interest.

Councilmember Evans suggested talking to some of the donors and groups and getting their feelings. She noted that it was a great community effort and she would like to know about the conversations and understandings, etc. Chairman Drake said that Commissioner Shute attended some of those fundraising meetings and can provide more information and speak to some of the donors and with Mr. Lee so the commission can make an informed decision at the next meeting. Councilmember Evans also noted that it is her understanding there is no room for an additional statue, and that the “Suffragette” took a lot of time and energy to get funded.

Commissioner Ryba said that she knows that at least two of those statues have been privately funded, and should the commission decide to move forward, she is willing to help find the funding for a possible nurse statue. Chairman Drake said that a lot of it is entirely dependent on conversation with Mr. Lee and his vision. She will get more information for a better, more informed discussion next month. Commissioner Moss said that she would really like to hear from Mr. Lee regarding his vision, and that this year it will be the Centennial Celebration of the women’s vote so the statue is appropriate for this year. Commissioner Ryba suggested inviting Mr. Lee to come to the next Arts Commission meeting.

#### **UPDATE ON “UNCONQUERED” INSTALLATION:**

Mr. Tymesen said that the Pinkerton’s have been working with the City for installation of the piece. He noted that it is a very sizeable piece and structural engineers are working on the base, and working through City staff to get the rebar and pour concrete. The next proposal is to get basalt rocks that they can put on the base, and then to put the sculpture in a setting that looks more natural. The staff at the City is working hard on it, and Mr. Tymesen noted that probably acquiring the rocks will be the biggest challenge but they are looking to pour concrete in May. Transportation has been a little bit of an issue, and he is hopeful that if all goes well, they can get everything opened up. Chairman Drake noted that it would be fun to watch the install, and Mr. Tymesen suggested that it could be filmed.

**CONTINUED DISCUSSION RE: REQUEST FOR FUNDING – “OUT OF THE SHADOWS” THEATRE:** Chairman Drake commented that the commission has funded the program before through the Community Art Grants program. The grants program was put on hold because the commission couldn’t get approval for funding through the Lake or River District and there weren’t enough available funds through the 1% Fund. She further noted that a councilmember sent an email to the mayor and Councilmember Evans that he thought it would be a good idea of the commission divvied up about \$10,000 in funding for community organizations. She further commented that if the commission feels like it now has stronger

support from the council, it might be the time to approach them and discuss where the funding would be coming from. Chairman Drake said that as of right now, the 1% Fund is not nearly as robust as the URD funds, and if they can't somehow find funding through one of the more robust funds, she doesn't see the commission being able to keep the program going the way they want it to.

Chairman Drake suggested talking to the Council, and they would need to have some sort of response from ignite. She commented that the last time the program was brought forward, there were Council members who did not believe it was appropriate to use URD funds for other than physical art in those areas.

Commissioner Runge said that she supports the idea of funding arts organizations in the community and going to the Council and ignite for permission to use those funds. Chairman Drake said that at this point, if the commission wants to pursue something like that, they would need to put together the appropriate argument in support, and then move forward. Chairman Drake and Commissioner Runge will put some thoughts together and send them to Mr. Tymesen and Ms. Ferguson.

Chairman Drake reviewed the application procedure from the last Community Art Grants program, and commented that she thinks it is huge for the Arts Commission to support arts in our community. Mr. Tymesen commented that urban renewal renewal dollars need to be spent in the district, and the previous discussion was that the grant program wasn't bringing in any real art. Chairman Drake said that there is no way to know unless the commission tries again. Mr. Tymesen said that he and the Legal Department will look at it.

#### **UPDATE ON "INSPIRED" PUBLIC ART SCULPTURE:**

Mr. Tymesen said that the sculpture has not yet been powder-coated, as powder coating is not deemed an essential service. He noted that in July it will be two years from the time that the project was supposed to have been completed. He will stay in contact with Mr. Sanchez and, as businesses open up, will look to get the statue to the powder-coater. He further commented that the artist has not been paid in well over a year.

#### **MURAL FESTIVAL UPDATE:**

No update. Chairman Drake said that she is assuming that the event will probably be postponed, and that she would send an email to Commissioner Kahler to see if he has any updates.

#### **STATUS UPDATE ON UTILITY BOX BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT:**

Mr. Tymesen said that due to the virus, City officials have been very busy doing work they haven't anticipated, and so he has not brought the item forward. He is anticipating that he will bring it to the council probably the second meeting in May. Ms. Ferguson will send an email to the artists and TDS letting them know about the delay, and also an email to the selection committee.

## **PRIVATE ART IN THE PUBLIC VIEW – POTENTIAL PROJECT FOR THE WEBSITE:**

Ms. Ferguson mentioned that quite a few years ago, when the Arts Commission web pages were first created, there was a page created for “Private Art in the Public View.” A former Arts Commissioner had taken on the project, but the project was sidetracked and never progressed. She asked the commission members if they would be interested in taking on the project, to add private art to the website. This would entail photographing the project, and contacting the owners for background information and permission to post the art to the website. Commissioner Behrman expressed interested in working on the project. The Roberge art piece on Government Way, the Eagle at Hope Realty, and local murals were suggested. Chairman Drake asked the commissioners to email Commissioner Behrman with any ideas.

## **UPDATE OF SUBCOMMITTEE & VOLUNTEERS LIST:**

The subcommittee list was updated. Commissioner Sichestiel said that she would send an email regarding her subcommittee choices.

## **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Mayor’s Awards in the Arts: Ms. Ferguson said that she has a reminder coming up in May to send out the Mayor’s Awards in the Arts Applications. Chairman Drake reminded everyone to nominate at least one person.

Utility Box Beautification: Update provided above. Mr. Tymesen noted that a previously damaged wrapped utility box was now being used as a drop box at City Hall.

Ped/Bike Brochure: No update. Commissioner Moss said that they probably won’t do anything until the summer.

Mural Projects: Chairman Drake said that they have put the “brakes” on the program a little bit, and were letting the mural festival concept take center stage. She will send Commissioner Kahler an email asking for an update on the festival and will report back to the commission and mural subcommittee.

Storm Drain Art: Ms. Ferguson will email Commissioner Groth and Kim Harrington for an update.

Public Art Plaques: No update. On hold for now.

Four-Corners Entrance: Commissioner Bruning said that he has some information for Ms. Ferguson, and that he will need to get together with Bill Greenwood. He will share what he has done so far with the subcommittee.

Chairman Drake commented that they had a great meeting with the City and the lighting engineers regarding the Rainbow Arch, and then the “world shut down.” They got some things to function and figured out other issues. They are starting to look into new technologies and questions are being asked and answered, with more progress than since the piece was installed.

She commented that, hopefully, it will pick up where they left off when all of the “COVID-19” delays are over. Mr. Tymesen said that they are very optimistic that they will be able to get something that is sustainable and UL-approved. The City’s electrician is extremely enthusiastic about it.

Mr. Tymesen mentioned that budget planning is coming up, and so he should get together with the budget subcommittee. He will work on scheduling a meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT: MOTION by Commissioner Bruning, seconded by Commissioner Runge, to adjourn. Motion carried.** The meeting adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Amy Ferguson  
Executive Assistant