

**Agenda**  
**City of Kentwood Arts Commission**  
**March 4, 2024**

5:30pm

Kentwood Richard L. Root branch of the Kent District Library  
at 4950 Breton Avenue, SE  
Second Floor Conference Room

1. Roll Call
2. Minutes June 28, 2022, and January 30, 2024
3. Update on Woodland Mall Sculpture Donation-Tri-Elements
4. Arts Commission Purpose Statement
  - a. Entryway Design Review
  - b. Prospective Funding Sources
5. Community Building Naming Process (Defer)
6. Art Venue Review-Feeding America West Michigan 3070 Shaffer Avenue (Defer)
7. Next Meeting

Draft Minutes  
City of Kentwood  
Arts Commission  
June 28, 2022

A. The meeting was called to order at 5:32pm.

B. Roll Call:

Members Present: Jerry DeMaagd, Terry Schweitzer, Ana Falling

Members Absent: Wendy BooydeGraaff

Others Present: Planning Intern Toby Hayes, Representative of Applicant  
Marcus Ringnalda

C. Minutes

Motion by Schweitzer, supported by DeMaagd, to approve the Minutes of the February 24, 2020 Arts Commission meeting.

Motion Carried (3-0)

D. Commission Review of proposed mural at 3990 44<sup>th</sup> Street SE

Schweitzer welcomed Ringnalda and asked if he would explain the mural for the commission. Ringnalda explained that his client had intended to attend but was called out of town. He said the applicant is seeking approval to apply and display a permanent mural on the west wall of the building at 3990 44<sup>th</sup> St. SE. He said Mobile Defenders were the previous tenants of the building, however his client, Miller Ganapini, purchased the building and will be moving his countertop tooling business to the new location. Ringnalda said the mural is partially visible from eastbound 44<sup>th</sup> street, but primary viewing will be from the parking lot of the structure.

Schweitzer explained that Intern Hayes had reviewed the city's sign ordinances and concluded that the design does not constitute a sign or an advertisement and therefore falls under the purview of the Arts Commission.

DeMaagd asked if the brick surface was flat. Ringnalda explained that the brick has ridges in it and is not completely flat. Falling asked how the artist

might paint on an uneven surface. Ringnalda explained he may do so with a projection of the design onto the wall. Based on the information and photos describing the muralist, it appeared that there may be a role played by the community in the painting process.

Falling, Schweitzer and DeMaagd did not feel the proposed mural would be an undue distraction for passing motorists, and the graphics are appealing and by no means offensive to community standards.

DeMaagd asked what the significance of the mural was and who the statue next to the Statue of Liberty was. Ringnalda explained that the mural depicted the Statue of David next to the Statue of Liberty and most likely has relevance to Miller's Italian background. Commissioners expressed interest in receiving more details on the meaning of the mural and what it means to the applicant.

DeMaagd asked if the artist had a proposed start date for the project. Ringnalda explained that it would be as soon as possible. The artist lives in Italy and will be flying into Kentwood to paint the mural. He said he may be undertaking the project later this summer. DeMaagd said it would be best to approve this quickly so the applicant can notify the artist as soon as possible.

DeMaagd asked whether approval could be granted in the case conditioned upon the applicant supplying the commission with more details on what type of sealant will be used to protect the mural from graffiti, the described maintenance plan, more background on the meaning of the mural.

Schweitzer stated that the commission may grant conditional approval and asked if anyone would like to make a motion.

Commissioner Falling motioned to grant conditional approval as suggested by DeMaagd, DeMaagd supported the motion.

Motion Carried (3-0)

#### E. Other Business

Schweitzer explained to the commissioners that in the next meeting there will be discussion regarding a recent unapproved addition of a mural to the Meyer Music building on Lake Eastbrook Blvd, and whether or not it

constitutes a sign based on Kentwood ordinance. He also suggested that the next meeting's agenda might also include development of the Arts Commission purpose statement.

As suggested in the email provided by BooydeGraaff; Falling, Schweitzer, and DeMaagd felt future applicants should include background on the artist, as well as on the intended meaning of the artwork.

F. Next meeting.

The consensus of the group was to schedule the next meeting at a later date as to avoid conflicts with Falling's work schedule and DeMaagd possibly being on vacation later in the summer.

Motion by DeMaagd, supported by Falling, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion Carried (3-0)

The meeting adjourned at 6:02pm

Submitted by Planning Intern Toby Hayes

7/6/22

## Minutes

City of Kentwood

Arts Commission

January 30, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 5:30pm.

### 1. Roll Call:

Members Present: Wendy BooydeGraaff, Jerry DeMaagd, Terry Schweitzer, and Maurice Groce

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Mayor Kepley, Kiosha Jeltema, Kent District Library Regional Manager, Val Romeo, Director of Parks & Recreation, Spencer McKellar, Deputy Director of Parks & Recreation

Schweitzer noted that Kiosha Jeltema offered to host the meeting at the Library and, in response to Schweitzer's offer, she has expressed an interest in working with the Arts Commission.

### 2. The Minutes for the meeting dated June 28, 2022, will be considered at the next meeting.

### 3. The Genesis of the Arts Commission

Schweitzer gave an overview of why the commission was formed and generally what's been worked on in the past. The predecessor was a group called the Kentwood Arts Advisory Committee whose charge was to discuss issues, foster collaboration on projects, and brainstorm ideas to encourage greater community involvement in the arts. Subsequently, in 2017, a hotel painted a large mural on the side of their building at the intersection of 28<sup>th</sup> Street and Broadmoor. The sheer size of the mural and the distraction it represented to motorists at this very high traffic intersection triggered the desire for a process and a set of policies to evaluate such highly visible art venues considering public safety, contemporary community standards, and commercial messaging.

### 4. Woodland Mall Sculpture Donation-Tri-Elements

The group discussed the sculpture donated by Woodland Mall to the city in 2019 and the process it went through prior to coming into the City's possession. The City Commission gave the Arts Commission the assignment to recommend the placement location and installation method. The knoll

in front of the library had been discussed as a prime location and there have also been suggestions to consider Covenant Park or the library courtyard, but no decisions were made. Regarding the installation method, the original artist had been contacted and he confirmed that it was feasible to retrofit the sculpture with LED lights. Schweitzer confirmed with the DPW Director that we still have the sculpture in storage, and it is in good condition.

DeMaagd noted that there is still an issue with the funding for the retrofit and installation of the artwork. It was noted that the Kentwood Foundation could serve as the qualified non-profit organization to accept donations toward the retrofit/installation project.

5. Draft Arts Commission Purpose Statement

Just prior to COVID, the Arts Commission was discussing their desire to formulate a wider long-range vision for the Arts Commission based on the value of art in the community that transcends the focus on the piece of art donated to the city. BooydeGraaff had introduced a draft purpose statement she had volunteered to put together drawing, in part, upon the tenets associated with the former Kentwood Arts Advisory Committee.

6. Paul Collins Art Display

Mayor Kepley stated that the Arts Commission plays an important role in the community in terms of evaluating Art Venues on private property and evaluating donations as well as a resource to evaluate the purchase of art for display on city properties and within city buildings. For that reason Mayor Kepley recently asked the Arts Commission to review a Paul Collins portrait exhibit entitled “Road Towards Equality” scheduled from January 10-26 for display in Kentwood Richard L. Root branch of the Kent District Library. Mr. Collins is a local artist of great renown. Given the timetable, Schweitzer authorized the display as a prospective pilot for similar displays by other artists within the community.

Jeltema indicated that community reaction to the display while hanging in the library on the wall just behind the information center seemed favorable. Discussion ensued concerning other alternate or additional display venues: on a library wall within the children’s area, the library interior entrance wall, or the existing down-lit wall within the large first floor conference room in City Hall.

It was suggested that a donor be sought out to purchase the portrait and give it to the city for permanent display in the library or other city facility.

7. Community Center Update and Process to Name the New and Existing Buildings

Mayor Kepley updated the group on the progress of designing the new community center on Walma Avenue, north of the Fire Station #1 and west of the Justice Center. He invited the Art Commission to offer input on how and what to name the new building. Parks & Recreation Director Val Romeo noted that people call the current Kentwood Activities Center a few different names and she explained the importance to reinforce a consistent naming of the new building as well as the existing facility at 355 48<sup>th</sup> Street in our upcoming communications.

The Art and process of how Art was purchased for the library was talked about and a similar process was desired for the new building. Discussion ensued concerning the need to place art, whether paintings or sculptures, in and around the new building. The group urged that artistic input be provided early in the design phase of the project. Currently under consideration is a classroom for Art and potentially a small gallery area to showcase art created there and by local artists. The Woodland Mall sculpture was also discussed as an option for display in front of or in the lobby of the new building and, given the remote location of some of the planned parking area, consideration was suggested to place art or interest stops along the trailway to the building. Romeo noted that the City Commission recently authorized working with a professional fundraising consulting service to assist in the financing of the Parks & Recreation capital projects. Local foundations may also be a resource to finance art purchases. Regarding the naming of the new and existing buildings, it was suggested to solicit donor input/naming rights or solicit suggestions from the community at large and allow the community to name the top 5 as vetted by representatives from the community. The final decision could be made by the City Commission.

8. Feeding America Art Venue Request

Feeding America, located at 3070 Shaffer Avenue SE in Kentwood, wishes to paint large wheat stalks on the side of their building in addition to their freestanding and wall signs. The request was submitted a few days in

advance of this meeting. The details of the plan/request will be reviewed at a subsequent Arts Commission meeting.

9. The Meeting adjourned at 6:30pm

Submitted by Arts Commission Secretary Terry Schweitzer



Arts Commission Draft of purpose statement  
by W. BooydeGraaff

**Purpose:**

To bring Art to the Kentwood community.

**Rationale:**

Public Art is an important aspect of a growing, modern community.

Public Art . . .

- gives the city a landmark, and creates a gathering place for the community. “Meet me by the TriElements” is something we envision people saying.
- Public Art encourages civic engagement. It’s a starting point for Kentwood to be part of the larger, global conversation about and with Art. People might say, “What is this?” “It looks like . . .” “Who made this?” “Where did it come from?” These are conversations that encourage people, neighbours, community members, to talk among and with each other.
- Public Art encourages education, for all ages. The questions, the research that may ensue, and the opportunity for library or Parks and Rec programs surrounding Art. For TriElements, it could be sketched, discussed (STEM involvement here because of the stainless steel, LED lights, natural light, placement, technology), the installation could be documented.
- TriElements specifically has a Kentwood story—it comes from Woodland Mall, and was donated to Kentwood. It has a history here, and may be familiar with people, but it’s being updated, modernized, and put into a place of pride to show our Kentwood spirit, our first outdoor sculpture.
- Public Art creates a sense of excitement and change (especially upon a new installation)

• *Public Art Review*

**Pitch:**

TriElements is a simple, modern sculpture, the first acquisition for Kentwood’s Public Art initiative, which will enable Kentwood’s Arts Commission vision: to be a growing, thriving city community that celebrates the arts and makes them accessible to the public.

10/29/18

**Kentwood Arts Advisory Committee**

The purpose of the Kentwood Arts Advisory Committee may include the following but is not limited to:

- A. Stimulate interest and awareness in all forms of art.
- B. Promote schools, exhibitions, performances, and productions of artistic and cultural value to the people of the Kentwood area.
- C. Coordinate the artistic and cultural activities of the Kentwood area, including, but not limited to, music, theatre, dance, painting, sculpture, architecture, allied arts and crafts, and such other cultural activities of value to the citizens of Kentwood.
- D. Be the arts advisory body for the citizens of Kentwood
- E. Provide a community perspective on services, programs, events and facilities related to the arts and culture.
- F. Foster public awareness, recognition and support for local artistic talent and multiculturalism.
- G. Provide leadership in, and actively promote community activities related to the arts, culture and special events
- H. Provide liaisons, linkages and networks to assist community activities and clubs

-budget?



**Mission Statement**

*The mission of the Kentwood Arts Advisory Committee is to discuss issues, foster collaboration on projects, and brainstorm ideas to encourage greater community involvement in the arts.*

## A Shining City on a Hill The Symbolism of a lighted sculpture

Since the early founding of New England towns, the ideal city goal was to become a “Shining City on a Hill”. Inspired by the scriptures, the early settlers took literally a verse from Matthew 5:14 which says “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden”.

The Arts Commission has been tasked with evaluating the sculpture donated by Woodland Mall last year and recommending a prominent place for its installation within the city limits.

The sculpture created by the artist Ulrich Pakker was named “Tri-Elements” expressed in the form of three circles of stainless steel, and projecting and returning water from each. Through contact with the artist, we have found that the water feature can be replaced by laminated glass arcs, lighted with LED lighting. We believe this modification would not only bring this piece into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, but become an inspiration and focus for the community of Kentwood.

Since its founding in 1967, the City of Kentwood has expanded from a commuting suburb and rural township, to become a true civic community in its own right, embodying the best of both town and country. After more than 50 years, it continues to draw new residents from other areas of the state and indeed, from around the world. The lighted sculpture could become a symbol of the ideal “shining city on a hill”, not only *making all feel welcome to come to our city, but to truly feel a sense of belonging within our community.*

Notes:

1. See City on a Hill, Urban Idealism in America from the Puritans to the Present by Alex Kreiger, The Belknap Press, Cambridge, MA 2019 page 82 and footnote 19, Chapter 4.
2. The Story of Kentwood, A History of Kentwood, Michigan by VanScoy, Kuhn, Therrien, pub. City of Kentwood, 1998, page 281 "The (Kentwood City Center-City Hall) was designed to sit atop the highest spot in the city, some 805 feet above sea level."
3. Concluding italics are quote from Mayor Stephan Kepley, The Grand Rapids Press, December 22, 2019, page A12 made at the City Commission meeting the previous Thursday with regard to reaffirming the city's support of a resolution consenting to the continuing resettlement of refugees.

CITY on a Hill, Urban Idealism in America from the Puritans to the Present, ALEX KRIEGER, The Belknap Press, © 2019 Chapter 4 - The Small Town as an Ideal: Puritan Covenants to Celebration, FL

builders to devise the first suburban estates deliberately emulating small towns. Early in the twentieth century, planners drew on the New England tradition as they advanced Garden Cities. And recently, as we have seen, the New Urbanists—and more superficially those marketing departments responsible for naming suburban subdivisions—have sought to replicate or evoke the qualities of social harmony and physical grace associated with old New England. It is an irony that, by encouraging so many people to retreat from urban centers, this long history of idealization unleashed the forces of suburbanization that proved truly antithetical to the ideals of small-town life.

All this makes it difficult to discuss the early New England towns without descending into cliché. But an understanding of the initial organization of the Puritan village and how it evolved will allow us to better see how the same image of a perfect hometown could be invoked both to encourage retreat from the expanding industrializing city (and so unleash suburbanization), and to offer an alternative to the ubiquitous suburban landscape, as it was by the New Urbanists two-thirds of a century later.

Small groups bound by strong feelings of kinship settled most of the early English villages in New England, starting with the first permanent English settlement of Plymouth, established in 1620. In any new community, the leading male members would sign a covenant (not unlike Celebration's Declaration of Covenants, which clearly harked back to these early agreements) confirming the terms by which village lands would be held and maintained. Typically, modest home plots bordered a Common for grazing, and land cleared for farming beyond the street of homes was allocated to male heads of households based on their wealth or social status. Everyone lived in the town and compactness was, indeed, legislated. Once all the house lots around the Common were allocated, the process of starting another town began. Within a decade of Plymouth's founding, settlers formed two dozen more towns under such covenants. One of them was Boston, in 1630, which would come to be associated with John Winthrop's famous phrase; in a sermon delivered en route to the New World, he called for founding "a shining city upon a hill."

The binding covenant was a necessity as long as the survival of the community depended on communal effort and associated spiritual kinship. This emphasis on cooperation is where Mumford found his "harmonious balance." Such unity of purpose, however, lasted only a couple of generations. Once survival was assured, liberties beckoned, including the liberty to amass one's own

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Lewis's protag Gopher Prairie, (See Figure 4.6.

Theme

w/ LED lights installed.

24th 6:30

Feb 20



- 18 Page Smith, *As a City upon a Hill: The Town in American History* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1966), 3. The first eight chapters of John Reps, *The Making of Urban America: A History of City Planning in the United States* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1965) provide a good overview of the early Puritan settlements and how these differed from European towns, other colonist groups, and the Southern plantation tradition.
- 19 From John Winthrop's famous 1630 sermon "A Model of Christian Charity," preached while he was still aboard the *Arbela* on its way to the New World. Winthrop was alluding to Jesus's "Sermon on the Mount" in Matthew 5:14 which contains these lines: "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden."

*Society, 1815–1915* (Boston: Little

ice and Howe, 1920), 325.

*England and the American Elm* (New

g, September 1997.

*ibe*, August 18, 1996, 1; "Front  
1996, 15.

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## 5 The Company Town Away from Town

Thomas Bender, *Community and Social Change in America* (Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1978), 78–79.

Stanley Buder, *Pullman: An Experiment in Industrial Order and Community Planning, 1880–1930* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1967), 42.

Oliva Allen-Price and Mina Kim, "A Sneak Peek at Apple's New Cupertino Headquarters," KQED News, last modified February 15, 2015, <https://www.kqed.org/news/10430660>.

- 1 Seth Fiegerman, "Facebook's Glamorous New Headquarters Will Make You Hate Your Cubicle," Mashable website, March 31, 2015, <https://mashable.com/2015/03/31/facebook-new-headquarters-photos>.

2 Alexander Hamilton  
York: Columbia Uni

3 Excellent overviews of  
*Mansion: A Study of*.  
York: Columbia Uni  
*Paradise: The Design*  
Garner, *The Model C*  
*Nineteenth-Century*  
John W. Reps, *Town*  
Press, 1980).

4 Barbara M. Tucker a  
*1860* (Ithaca, NY: Co  
Lowell as the fathers  
scribe how, while co  
fabrics produced in  
tended to call their c

5 Alexander Hamilton  
<https://founders.arch>

6 Ella, "The Window  
and Farley, 1845), 26

7 John W. Reps, *The A*  
*States* (Princeton, N

8 Quoted in Charles C  
atespace, 2017), 134.

9 For more on Lowell  
ban national histori  
*Postindustrial City* (

10 Theodore Weicker.  
6 (New York: Mercl

11 For a thorough acco  
Lindsey Almont, *The*

12 Buder, *Pullman*, 42-

13 "Greenstone UMC  
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