

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 44th 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 44th 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 44th 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