

Members present: Marsha Carrington, Robin Hudnall, Chris Parthemore, Adam Ramsdell, Brian Stanley, Cable Steinemann, Jordan Sternberg, Ethan Unzicker, Martha Wikel, Dennis Murray (Ex-Officio) and Greg Voltz (Ex-Officio)

Members Absent: Roz Shepherd (Ex-Officio)

Staff Present: Kelly Kresser (Clerk), Eric Wobser (City Manager), and Nikki Lloyd (City Commissioner).

CURRENT BUSINESS

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Upon motion of Ethan Unzicker and second of Jordan Sternberg, the commission voted to approve the minutes of the September 27, 2018, meeting. The Chairman declared the motion passed.

Donation of Artwork & Placement

1. LEWCO – Commemorating Sandusky’s Bicentennial

Greg Voltz said LEWCO fabricated a sculpture for a float which was in the 2018 Bicentennial parade with the intention of gifting it to the City of Sandusky afterward for permanent placement in a public location. The design of the sculpture is an abstract 1818 made of weathering steel with increased resistance to atmospheric corrosion. Its width is 166” overall, height is 100” overall and the depth is 24”. Three potential sites have been identified for this sculpture and Greg Voltz asked for input about them as well as thoughts about other location(s) from members of the Commission. The three potential sites already identified are along the to-be-built Sandusky Bay Pathway on First Street, the Parklet at the northwest corner of the Chesapeake Lofts property and atop the hill at the Paper District Marina Amphitheatre. Cable Steinemann said he believes this should be placed in front of a wall or structure as it is reads one way and suggested Peddler’s Alley or west of the Jet Express dock. Other suggestions were near the water on the Jackson Street Pier, Lions Park, Shoreline Park, in one of the city’s triangle parks, as a backdrop at the Chesapeake brick garage building or in front of the Erie County parking garage. Ethan Unzicker said this is an environmental piece of art, likes the three dimensional aspect of it and suggested it would be best experienced if one was able to walk around it. It was agreed a location in the downtown area would be a better place for this and to consider lighting in some fashion so it is illuminated after dark (solar powered or LED lights). Greg Voltz stated he will put some mock-ups together at the locations suggested for viewing at the next meeting for further consideration.

2. George Gast – In Memory of Scott Gast

George Gast (owner of Musician’s Alley) said he is here tonight to offer the donation of a five foot tall rebar and fiberglass guitar in memory of his son, Scott, for permanent placement. Because Scott started performing in the Washington Park Gazebo beginning in 8th Grade, he hopes this can be placed in Washington Park near this site. Motorists driving by and people walking in the parks would see the guitar and it would draw interest. The company to construct this has created hundreds of unique outdoor weather resistant figures for Disney, Universal Studio, Cedar Fair and at the Mickey Mart on State Route 250 in Perkins Township. Cable Steinemann said Peddler’s Alley might be a more intimate space for such a sculpture/memorial. Nikki Lloyd said she fears this might get lost in Washington Park as there are so many other things already there to look at. Jordan Sternberg suggested the sidewalk area in front of Musician’s Alley on Columbus Avenue as a potential location. Ethan Unzicker suggested an area along the west side Wayne Street at the southeast corner of Washington Park where there is an existing flower bed. Robin Hudnall suggested placing this closer to the gazebo and perhaps along one of the walkways or by the steps to the gazebo. Chris Parthemore asked about the section of the Placemaking Plan concerning memorial gifts as there is a twenty-five year minimum after a death to be considered and Greg Voltz said this would be up to the members. Cable Steinemann asked if we would be setting a precedent for this area to potentially be filled with memorials. It was agreed an area in Washington Park near the gazebo might be the more appropriate location and Greg Voltz said he can provide mock-ups at several locations to view at the next meeting. Eric Wobser said some decisions about placement are more political than artistic and will take another look at the donation policy as it addresses memorial gifts.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

2019 Work Plan/Brainstorming

Greg Voltz said he would like to move forward with the **Public Art Work Plan** to discuss potential projects or initiatives for 2019. As a baseline, there will be \$40,000 to \$50,000 budgeted and would like to hear thoughts from the members about what they would like to work toward next year. Staff will also continue to look for outside partnership and grant opportunities. Different potential projects and ideas include sculptures, murals, functional art, light installations, multi-media, pop-up and temporary art, interactive and performance art. Ideas from the Placemaking Plan are also on the table and include temporary murals, sculptures on loan, functional art, changing vacant storefronts to galleries and temporary displays in the new City Hall. Cable Steinemann said he would like to see a permanent display at the new City Hall and Dennis Murray said any displays placed here are meant to be temporary. Cable Steinemann said it may be a good idea to get professional curatorial assistance to evaluate what might be appropriate. Robin


Hudnall said she would like to have a more interactive presence in the neighborhoods and hear opinions from different people in different areas before considering any public art in a specific district. She said there are graffiti murals in Austin, Texas, and powerbox murals (utility boxes) which could be created by various artists and have been very well received in other communities.

Greg Voltz said city staff is planning to host “Walk Wayne” and “Hike Hancock” Days in 2019 and asked if the members might be interested in participating by offering low cost temporary projects, murals, activating storefronts, using temporary interactive pieces and/or performance. Eric Wobser said the goal is to encourage people to walk our neighborhood corridors and use art to help bring them to life. Dennis Murray said there are neighborhood meetings already scheduled during the remainder of 2018 and, specifically, it may be a good idea to piggyback on the one scheduled in the Jaycee Park neighborhood as this area will be a big focus in 2019.

Greg Voltz said another initiative from the Placemaking Plan was underpass lighting which would be a more costly project with a longer timeline. The Hayes Avenue Corridor should be a focus because of the large pedestrian experience for children going to and from school in this area. Requests for Qualifications or Requests for Proposals can be issued to call for lighting design artists and proposals. Eric Wobser said discussions have taken place about lighting the former Calvary Temple Building and the new City Hall along with other downtown buildings which has been done in big cities and in other countries with great success. He would also like to see the city and Erie County work together regarding more attractive internal and external lighting at the parking structure and downtown office building and these discussions have already began. Adam Ramsdell said he would like to look at lighting for the pavilion in Shoreline Park. Marsha Hudnall said she would like to look into using fun and interactive lighting effects. Ethan Unzicker said he would like to focus on gaining the public trust by how we relate with members of the community and by controlling our narrative through the use of social media, presence at events and good public relations practices. Brian Stanley asked about long-term budgeting and Greg Voltz said the first year would probably entail lower cost initiatives but money can be carried over from year to year if larger scale projects are considered in the future. Robin Hudnall said color theories are a form of art therapy which can help to influence societal issues such as areas with high crime and would like the members to consider looking more into this concept. Greg Voltz said he will incorporate many of the ideas shared tonight into the next Public Arts & Culture Commission Agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:55 p.m., upon motion of Robin Hudnall and second of Cable Steinemann, the commission voted to adjourn. The Chairman declared the motion passed.



Attest: Kelly Kresser, Clerk
Date: 11/8/19



Brian Stanley, Vice Chairman
Date: 11/8/19