

Members present: Martha Wikel, Adam Ramsdell, Cable Steinemann, Brian Stanley (Chairman), Robin Lloyd, Gail Riedy, Jordan Sternberg and Chris Parthemore

Ex-Officio Members present: Michelle Newell, Blake Harris and Greg Voltz

Members Absent: Marsha Carrington

Staff Present: Kelly Kresser (Clerk)

CURRENT BUSINESS

Brian Stanley welcomed Blake Harris who is the new City Commission Liaison to the Public Arts & Culture Commission.

Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for CY 2020

Upon motion of Chris Parthemore and second of Adam Ramsdell, the members voted to keep the same slate of officers for CY 2020 (Brian Stanley, Chairperson and Cable Steinemann, Vice Chairperson). The Chairman declared the motion passed.

Approval of Minutes

Upon motion of Chris Parthemore and second of Adam Ramsdell, the members voted to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2019, meeting and suspend the formal reading. The Chairman declared the motion passed.

CY 2020 Work Plan

Upon motion of Chris Parthemore and second of Cable Steinemann, the members voted to approve the draft Work Plan so it may be finalized for consideration by the City Commission.

Discussion: Greg Voltz said the Work Plan distributed with the Agenda is basically the same as the one submitted in December with the addition of a place-based artwork project for the Hayes Avenue corridor. Talon Flohr, Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator, said the city is nearing the end of the Neighborhood Initiative projects and we could possibly leverage remaining funds with the Public Arts & Culture Commission budgeted funds to do such a project. Eric Wobser, City Manager, said this is a high traffic gateway into the city and Firelands Regional Medical Center (FRMC) is interested in continuing with their Garden District initiative. Art could potentially be placed along the corridor between Monroe Street and FRMC. The city received a grant from the Ohio Department of Transportation for this corridor because of the Sandusky City Schools being along it and traffic signals and crosswalks will be added along the corridor as well as beautification elements. Cable Steinemann asked what the amount of financial assistance would be from this Commission and Eric Wobser said we do not have a detailed amount yet from SCS or FRMC, but the city will be reaching out to them and this will be forthcoming. Gail Riedy suggested the business grants offered by the city could also tie in with this project. Robin Lloyd asked how this was brought to this Commission and Eric Wobser said it is a carryover from the Healthy Hayes

Initiative which envisioned public art along the Hayes Avenue (S.R. 4) corridor. This was slowed somewhat because of the transition with the new CEO of FRMC, but there was never any intention to leave this Commission out of the process. Blake Harris said if public art is not done at the underpass, something else would need to be done in this area and Eric Wobser said we will look at all options including creative light synchronizing in the entire corridor for a larger impact. Greg Voltz said it would be good to look for RFP's from artists, accept the top three and then proceed to meet with them to decide which would be the best way to go. The total amount proposed for the 2020 budget is \$45,000 which includes carryover from 2019 for the following projects: Graffiti wall/park, City Hall gallery or scholarship, Welcoming Sandusky murals, temporary sculpture exhibit, Hayes Avenue artwork, the Lake Erie Monster project, the hippos, the business partnership grant and artist-led grants. Robin Lloyd said she does not believe actual persons should be depicted in murals and Jordan Sternberg said it might be a good idea to follow the 25 year rule (not using images of persons until 25 years after death).

Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Martha Thompson, Michelle Newell, Blake Harris, Adam Ramsdell, Cable Steinemann, Brian Stanley, Robin Lloyd, Gail Riedy, Jordan Sternberg and Chris Parthemore, 10. Abstain: Greg Voltz, 1. The Chairperson declared the motion passed.

Project Updates

- 1. Pre-Qualified Artist List RFQ** – Greg Voltz said the RFQ will be released next week and there will not be a deadline for submission.
- 2. Artist-Led Grant** – Greg Voltz said this is now available on/through the city's website and asked the members to share the information.
- 3. Business/Organization Partnership Grants** – Greg Voltz said this is now available on/through the city's website.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Donna Bretz said she is here on behalf of the **annual Witches Walk event** which will celebrate its 10th year in 2020. In its initial year, there were approximately 20 individuals who participated and in 2019, there were 1,050. She would like members of this Commission to consider helping to make this a month-long event during October and stretch it from Washington Park to the waterfront with decorations and/or lighting so people are attracted into our downtown area. The downtown merchants are onboard with the concept and she asked for ideas and/or feedback. Cable Steinemann said he thinks this is a great idea but is not certain it should fall under the purview of the Public Arts & Culture Commission; Greg Voltz said this was brought to the Commission to brainstorm for ideas. Robin Lloyd said she could envision artistic displays for Halloween rather than just décor with a public art pop-up. Greg Voltz said temporary lighting is an idea for the parks or the pier. Eric Wobser said the Jackson Street Pier will be open in October, 2020, and this area could be programmed along with elements in Washington Park. Monies from

the programming fund could be combined to make a larger impact. Sandusky is already a destination because of Halloweekends at Cedar Point and this would be an opportunity to draw people into town to spend their dollars. Adam Ramsdell suggested piggybacking with the downtown trick-or-treat or trunk-or-treat events. Blake Harris said Disney has been very successful with their Halloweentown events and Sandusky could expand on the Halloween theme with potential for economic impacts; perhaps Sandusky could have the largest pumpkin AND the largest duck displayed during the month of October. Michelle Newell said her students (SCS) would probably be very interested in helping with displays of some sort.

Kelly Kresser said **Marsha Carrington** sent her regrets she was unable to attend this evening, but is recovering nicely and hopes to join us for the February meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:50 p.m., upon motion of Jordan Sternberg and second of Adam Ramsdell, the commission voted to adjourn. The Chairman declared the motion passed.

Attest: Kelly Kresser, Clerk

Date: ____/____/____

Brian Stanley, Chairperson

Date: ____/____/____