

**Members present:** Marsha Carrington, Robin Hudnall, Beth Maiden, Adam Ramsdell, Cable Steinemann, Jordan Sternberg, Rhonda Watt, Martha Wikel (Alternate), Greg Voltz (Ex-Officio) and Dennis Murray (Ex-Officio).

**Members Absent:** Brian Stanley, Ethan Unzicker and Roz Shepherd (Ex-Officio)

**Staff Present:** Kelly Kresser (Clerk) and Amanda Golden with Designing Local

### **Election of Officers**

Dennis Murray **welcomed the members of the Commission** and thanked them for their participation. The arts take many different forms and this Commission will set the tone for future Commissions. Each of those in attendance provided a brief introduction.

Dennis Murray said the job of the Chairperson will be to run the meetings and keep members on task. He asked if there were nominations from the floor for Chairperson; Cable Steinemann nominated Rhonda Watt who accepted the nomination. There being no further nominations from the floor, Dennis Murray said **Rhonda Watt will serve as the Chairperson.**

Dennis Murray asked if there were nominations from the floor for the position of Vice chairperson; Adam Ramsdell nominated Cable Steinemann who accepted the nomination. There being no further nominations from the floor, Dennis Murray said **Cable Steinemann will serve as the Vice Chairperson.**

### **CURRENT BUSINESS**

#### **Roles & Responsibilities**

Amanda Golden distributed an **Administrative Guide** outlining the roles and responsibilities for those involved in the implementation of a public art program, and asked the members to read this over and contact her via email with any questions. The members are responsible to advise city staff and the City Commissioners with regard to the development of the Master Plan, to provide an annual report about their work, to select artists and commission placement of artworks as well as set policy for the maintenance and removal of artworks. Funding for the program may come from the city's general fund and from monies generated by the admission tax (one percent). For CY 2018, \$42,500 is available in the city budget for this purpose. This Commission also has the ability to request grants or contributions from outside sources. The Master Plan, when developed, will provide a roadmap for the city to follow in the next five years relating to public art in Sandusky.

#### **Stakeholder Report**

Amanda Golden distributed the **Stakeholder Report** which identified three themes based on the stakeholder interviews: 1) vibrancy; 2) interactivity; and 3) high quality & varying scale art. Locations were identified for consideration and include our gateways, Bayfront areas, parks, the

historic downtown, commercial opportunities and underpasses. Different conceptual ideas were presented for art in underpass areas based on feedback received including the use of lighting for pedestrians and/or vehicles, a vine (green) wall effect and a gateway or overhead sign panel. There was discussion about how lighting could be made to be unique and a focal point, especially to expose the many children in Sandusky who use the Hayes Avenue/State Route 4 corridor to walk to and from school. Because Sandusky has many triangle parks and intersections, this unique feature could be capitalized upon by calling attention to them through the use of sculpture or another form of art. The use of murals in different areas could be created along with using the Lake Erie Monster “Bessie”, or some type of aquatic features to draw people to a specific place or area. Amanda Golden said they also heard the passageways or alleys in downtown are underutilized and conceptually could be brightened with lighting and/or overhead pieces of art. There could also be artwork done on the adjacent buildings provided they do not destroy or discolor the brick as the historical integrity must be considered. The Columbus Avenue gateway area could potentially be enhanced through the use of overhead banner(s), overhead lighting and enhancements to Schade-Mylander Plaza. Specifically, the fountain area could be upgraded with dynamic lighting, water effects or sculptures, and repairs (or replacement) of the concrete walls.

Greg Voltz explained the city’s Historical Review District and noted any murals done on historic buildings would have to meet certain guidelines to ensure their historic nature is preserved. All art should come to this Commission for approval, even if buildings are privately-owned. Any work requiring a change of zoning or a variance must also have approval of the Planning Commission. The Public Art & Culture Commission will also be responsible to set written guidelines for painting murals in the city.

Cable Steinemann asked for clarification about art projects already in the works, specifically one recently in the newspaper for the Cove District. Greg Voltz explained the city’s neighborhood initiative began prior to the creation of this Commission and some projects are already in the works. From this point forward, the Public Art & Culture Commission will be involved with any artistic projects proposed.

Dennis Murray said members of this Commission will have some difficult decisions to make and must be prepared to defend their choices so the City Commissioners can get behind them as well.

Amanda Golden suggested the next meeting be scheduled to gather ideas and recommendations from the public. After some discussion, it was decided the Public Art & Culture Commission members would meet prior to scheduling the next public meeting to better define specific areas to consider for public art and narrow down potential concepts before the public meeting.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Marsha Carrington said many people have commented about the **metal corrugated fire escape/stairwell** on the west side of her gallery (on Jackson Street between Shoreline Drive and Water Street) as it would be a perfect structure for an artist to paint and create a work of art. Robin Hudnall suggested the building owner might be open to doing this and there are probably many others who might be willing to make these types of improvements.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 31 at 5:30 p.m.

At 6:58 p.m., the Chairperson declared the meeting adjourned.

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Attest: Kelly Kresser, Clerk  
Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rhonda Watt, Chairperson  
Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

