

**Members present:** Marsha Carrington, Adam Ramsdell, Cable Steinemann, Jordan Sternberg, Rhonda Watt (arrived 6:17 p.m.), Brian Stanley, Ethan Unzicker, Martha Wikel (Alternate), Roz Shepherd (Ex-Officio) and Greg Voltz (Ex-Officio)

**Members Absent:** Robin Hudnall and Beth Maiden

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

## **CURRENT BUSINESS**

**The Vice Chairman called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.**

### **Approval of Minutes**

**Upon motion of Ethan Unzicker and second of Cable Steinemann, the commission voted to approve the minutes as drafted and submitted. The Vice Chairperson declared the motion passed.**

### **Recap/Roles & Responsibilities**

Greg Voltz provided a **recap of the roles and responsibilities** for members of the Public Arts & Culture Commission as spelled out in the draft document and said this is an advisory committee. This body also acts as the Steering Committee for development of the Public Art Master Plan and its execution/implementation. All activities will be submitted in a written report to the City Commission and city staff will assist by overseeing the plan and administration of artwork.

### **Lange Trust/Midwest Sculpture Initiative**

Sarah Prout, Chairperson of The Lange Trust, said the Trust is part of the Sandusky Library to provide cultural enrichment, events and projects for Erie County residents and has been in existence for 40 years. Most of their events take place at the State Theatre but she has been pursuing public art project(s). She was introduced to Ken Thompson and the Midwest Sculpture Initiative while traveling with her husband in Michigan. The Midwest Sculpture Initiative is a traveling art display in Michigan, Indiana and Ohio and she has pursued this for Sandusky through the Lange Trust. Two hundred artists will submit exhibits and the host city chooses eight pieces of art for their community. She would like to have input from members of the Public Art & Cultural Commission in choosing artwork and locations for placement. These would then be ok display in Sandusky for one year starting in October. The Midwest Sculpture Initiative has insurance, the host city (Lange Trust) would provide liability insurance and the artists insure their individual artwork. These pieces can be sold during the year and if this happens, another piece of artwork would take its place. The Lange Trust has made a \$10,000 commitment to fund this for one year.

**Upon motion of Cable Steinemann and second of Jordan Sternberg, the commission voted to move forward with providing input (by members of the Public Art & Culture Commission) on this sculpture project through the Lange Trust's Advisory Committee and Sculpture Selection**

**Committee. The Vice Chairperson declared the motion passed.**

### **Neighborhood Initiative**

Talon Flohr, Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator, provided a recap of the neighborhood initiative. Projects slated for each of the four target neighborhoods were identified including:

- **South of Kilbourne Plat** – improvements to Jaycee Park and its entrance and completion of a mural through a pilot program at Derrick's Diner
- **Cove District** – Hook sculpture to be erected at Meigs & Sycamore Street with signage to follow
- **McKelvey Plat** – historical signage with artistic elements planned at Sycamore and Meigs Streets
- **First through Fifth Streets** – Development of the Cleveland Road Parklet is almost complete (formerly a drive-through bank building)
- **All neighborhoods** – Street sign toppers to brand neighborhoods and point out their individual character

### **Public Art & Placemaking Plan**

Amanda Golden said Designing Local is tasked with creating a Master Plan for the City of Sandusky and the role of the Steering Committee is to make recommendations about what public art will be completed. Greg Voltz has been identified as the staff person to act as liaison for the Public Art & Culture Commission and will manage the collection(s), maintenance plan(s), assist by developing and maintaining partnerships and assist by procuring outside funding sources. The public art program funds will be utilized to leverage existing funding by providing matching funds for grant opportunities from local, state and national organizations. Process and policy recommendations for the short term include adopting four policies and adopting Mural Guidelines. Recommendations also include completing an inventory of all public art pieces in Sandusky's public art collection which will be completed by Greg Voltz. A public artwork plan must be developed as well as a process to celebrate unveiling of pieces of artwork. Three to five year recommendations include determining the effectiveness of allocations from admissions tax to determine if an increase is needed. Collaborations with local partners and stakeholders including students should be created to increase awareness of the program and its purpose. A list of qualified artists should be developed and projects should be prioritized based on funding. Five year or long-term recommendations include examining additional funding mechanisms for larger public art installations. The Public Art & Placemaking Plan should be updated in three to five years and collaboration should continue so innovative exhibitions are in Sandusky. Yearly surveys should be completed to garner feedback on the public art program and its impact. More expensive or difficult to implement projects and programming should be prioritized.

Several conceptual projects were introduced simply for the purpose of generating discussion and gathering feedback based on input received at the public meetings and through the online survey

with Designing Local. These include:

- 1) call attention to our underpass gateways through lighting and painting;
- 2) use our historic architecture as a gateway into areas or neighborhoods;
- 3) use of our triangular park areas to show their connectivity;
- 4) creation of an interactive park area themed after the Lemmy monster;
- 5) utilize the movie "Tommy Boy" as a themed area for some type of sculpture or selfie spot;
- 6) a plaza spotlighting our history of the American Crayon Company with lighting and/or sculptures;
- 7) a walkway along a prominent downtown street with floating perch; and
- 8) a themed art trail along the Sandusky Bay Pathway.

Five conceptual programs have been identified for consideration including:

- 1) vacant storefront to gallery;
- 2) temporary mural art program;
- 3) sculpture on loan program;
- 4) functional art program;
- 5) a gallery inside of the new City Hall.

Amanda Golden asked members of the commission to provide feedback and comments to the policies and plan to her via email by August 7 so that these can be presented for final approval at the next meeting (to be scheduled in August). A presentation will be prepared for the City Commission at a meeting in early September.

**Upon motion of Roz Shepherd and second of Rhonda Watt, the commission voted to recommend moving forward with preparing the final Public Art & Placemaking Plan document for adoption at the next meeting. Roll call on the motion: Yeas: Marsha Carrington, Adam Ramsdell, Brian Stanley, Cable Steinemann, Jordan Sternberg, Ethan Unzicker and Ronda Watt, 7. The Chairperson declared the motion passed.**

The next **public meeting for the Public Art & Culture Commission to gather public feedback is Wednesday, August 1 at 6 p.m.** in Washington Park with the rain location at City Hall.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

None.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

The next meeting was scheduled for **Tuesday, August 28 at 5:30 p.m.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**At 7:07 p.m., upon motion of Adam Ramsdell and second of Cable Steinemann, the commission voted to adjourn. The Chairperson declared the motion passed.**

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

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

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