The City of Knoxville: Public Arts Committee

Public Arts Committee Meeting: July 11, 2017
Meeting was called to order at 4:02 PM at the Knoxville Museum of Art.

Attendees Present:
John Powers – Committee Member
Liza Zenni – Staff Liaison
Paul James – Knoxville History Project
Walt Fieldsa – Mural Artist
Tanisha Baker – Committee Member
Tommie Rush – Committee Member
Rachel Perkins Haverkamp – Committee Administrator
Rick Emmett – City of Knoxville, Downtown Coordinator

Absent Members:
Bart Watkins
Chuck Morris
Duane Grieve
Erin Donovan
James Taylor
Jeffrey Lockett
Mark Heinz
Mike Fowler
Sara Pinnell
Susana Esrequis
Terry Mosley

Approval of the Agenda: John moved to approve the agenda. Tanisha seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Approval of the Agenda: Tommie moved to approve the agenda. John seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Knoxville History Project Traffic Box Wrap: The committee welcomed back Paul James, Development Director for the Knoxville History Project (KHP). Paul identified additional potential locations for the traffic box wraps in downtown Knoxville. He shared the master plan with the committee and stated that if the first two designs are well-received by the community, the KHP will seek out funding support for future traffic wraps. He expects that future boxes will cost $1,500 per box and installation should take approximately six weeks. The committee thanked Paul for his work on the project and voted to approve the two designs proposed for installation, one at the corner of Gay Street and Union Ave and the other in front of Krutch Park on Gay Street.
Steps Project: Jessie Unterhalter and Katey Truhn arrived in Knoxville on July 5 to begin work on the steps project. Jessie attended the committee meeting to update the committee on their progress. Liza asked Jessie to share some feedback about their experience with the application process. Jessie stated that they were encouraged to apply to the project because they would be paid an honorarium for their design if selected as a semi-finalist. She added that they typically avoid projects that do not pay artists for their designs. Jessie suggested that the contract process could be streamlined more; the artists exchanged numerous emails and phone calls with the law department regarding the contract. Rick asked how the insurance requirements compared to other cities. Jessie stated that Knoxville had the highest insurance requirements of any city they have worked with previously. The committee thanked Jessie for her feedback and for their work on project.

Cradle of Country Music Park update: Liza shared that after meetings with the ad hoc Cradle of Country Music Park Project Planning Committee and Parks & Rec, the groups agreed that two separate RFQs should be issued: one for the artwork and one for the landscaping. Both RFQs will make clear that the artist should lead the project and the artwork will be the primary focus. Tommie suggested that the committee identify the specific goals of the artwork and landscaping, to be included in both RFQs. The committee will identify specific priorities to be included in the RFQs.

Walt Fieldsa, Knoxville Music History Mural: Walt Fieldsa informed the committee that he has been working to restore and refresh the Knoxville Music History Mural in the Old City that was painted over in April 2016. Leigh Burch, the property owner, has contributed funds to support the mural, and Walt asked the committee to consider supporting the project financially. The committee currently does not support projects on private property. A draft policy to consider support of projects on private property was created earlier this year, but it has not yet been approved by the city’s legal department. The committee thanked Walt for his work to restore the mural.

Future Meetings:

A. The next regular meeting is Tuesday, August 1, 2017 at 4:00 PM.
   a. The meeting will be held at the Knoxville Museum of Art.

B. Future meetings:
   a. September 5, 2017
   b. October 3, 2017
   c. November 7, 2017

Meeting adjourned at 4:54 PM