

The City of Knoxville: Public Arts Committee

Public Arts Committee Meeting: May 7, 2015

Meeting was called to order at 4:01 PM at the Knoxville Museum of Art.

Attendees Present:

Chuck Morris – Committee Member
Duane Grieve – Committee Member
Elizabeth Wright – Committee Member
Erin Donovan – Committee Member
Josh Cunningham – Guest
Liza Zenni – Staff Liaison
Mark Heinz – Committee Member
Mike Fowler – Committee Member
Paul James – Guest
Rachel Perkins – Committee Administrator
Sara Pinnell – Committee Member
Susana Esrequis – Committee Member

Liza welcomed the visitors and introduced them to the committee.

Approval of the Agenda: Duane moved to approve the agenda. Mike seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Approval of February Minutes: Mike moved to approve the minutes. Elizabeth seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

RFP / RFQ Update

Liza updated the committee about the RFP for State Street Garage and the RFQ for Cradle of Country Music Park. Liza sent both requests to procurement for approval. The city is currently reviewing the drafts and will update the committee when they are ready to be distributed. Liza informed the committee that the \$36,000 offered by Rick Emmett from the State Street Garage project is no longer available. She stated that if the committee wants to move forward with commissioning a piece for the site, the funding will need to come from the public art budget. Liza shared the updated public art fund based on Mayor Rogero's State of the City address. The committee was funded an additional \$250,000, bringing the total public art fund to \$670,000. \$210,000 of those funds are restricted for use at Cradle of Country Music Park. Duane asked if the committee wants to commit additional money to the Cradle of Country Music Park. Mark

asked if the piece at State Street has been removed. Rachel stated that it is scheduled to be removed later this month. Mark asked, what happened to the money for the State Street project? Duane stated that he did not know. He went on to say that he felt the committee should identify compelling locations around the city for public art, rather than settling on State Street just because a piece of art had been placed there in the past. Duane feels that the money will continue to be allocated each year for public art and the committee should develop a plan for the future. Liza reminded the committee that they had voted to put out the RFP for State Street. The committee had a lively discussion about potential locations for public art and the challenges and subjective nature of commissioning public art. Mike feels the committee should develop a plan for public art with input from the community. Mark suggested that since the committee is relatively inexperienced in handling these types of projects, maybe the State Street project would be a good project for the committee to gain experience without the challenges of a large budget. Chuck emphasized that the committee should still develop a plan, while it works on the State Street project. Sara requested that the committee remain flexible in the development of its plan. Elizabeth made a motion to move forward with the State Street Garage project using \$36,000 from the public art fund. Mike seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Bringing Tap Back: Review Panel

Liza welcomed Josh Cunningham from the Tennessee Clean Water Network (TCWN) to talk about the Bringing Tap Back initiative. The program is funded by the Tennessee Department of Health to encourage Tennesseans to drink more tap water by installing free, accessible water bottle refill stations in six cities across the state. The Knoxville refill stations are currently being at Ijams Nature Center, Market Square, Tyson Park, Victor Ashe Park, World's Fair Park, and Harriet Tubman Park. The TCWN asked the Public Arts Committee to review artists' submissions for art-wraps that will beautify the new water stations. The committee reviewed the six submissions and made their recommendations using voting sheets provided by the TCWN. The Director of Environmental Health Programs, Patience Melnik, will review the recommendations and inform the committee of the winning selections. Liza thanked Josh for his help presenting the submissions to the committee.

Visit Knoxville Mural Rack Card

Liza shared a newly designed mural rack card from Visit Knoxville. The card will show images of Knoxville's murals and will also provide information about the artists and locations of the murals. The cards will be distributed in hotels and other tourist information centers across the city. The committee was appreciative of Visit Knoxville's efforts and Mike asked Liza to express the committee's gratitude to Visit Knoxville. Liza also shared an idea for a new mural to be located in the underground at the Emporium Center. Liza envisions a mural that features Knoxville in 1919. Visit Knoxville has offered to contribute \$5,000 to support the mural. Liza has also submitted applications to the Gannett Foundation and CBID for an additional \$5,000 and the Arts & Culture Alliance will contribute \$1,000. Lighting would also need to be installed to showcase the mural. Liza asked the committee for feedback about the idea. The committee encouraged Liza to continue with the project and expressed interest in seeing design submissions before the mural is installed. Liza stated that she will bring the designs to the committee for approval when the project is ready to move forward.

Suttree Landing Park update

Liza informed the committee that Suttree Landing Park is continuing to be developed, but the public art component is still undecided. The South Knoxville Foundation is still working to decide what it envisions in the park. Liza feels the committee should continue to encourage public art in the space and asked the committee how they feel about continuing to build relationships with other city departments to encourage public art. The committee agreed and encouraged Liza to advocate for public art at Suttree Landing Park.

Everly Brothers Park

Liza shared that she met with members of the Bearden Council to discuss the development of the Everly Brothers Park at the northeast corner of Kingston Pike and Forest Park Boulevard. The council is eager to include a sculpture that honors the Everly Brothers. Liza encouraged the council to be creative with their design and to issue a call to artists for submissions. Duane will continue to have an active role in the development of the park.

Public Art Plan

Liza asked the committee to continue thinking about the vision for public art and what the next steps should be for the committee. The committee will continue to discuss this topic at the next meeting.

Future Meetings:

- A. The next regular meeting is Thursday, June 4, 2015 at 4:00 PM
 - a. The meeting will be held at the Knoxville Museum of Art boardroom.

Meeting adjourned at 5:18 PM.

Members Absent:

Bart Watkins
Faris Eid
Jeffrey Lockett
John Powers
Marcus Hall
Melinda Meador