

The City of Knoxville: Public Arts Committee

Public Arts Committee Meeting: June 4, 2015

Meeting was called to order at 4:03 PM at the Knoxville Museum of Art.

Attendees Present:

Bart Watkins – Committee Member
Chuck Morris – Committee Member
Doug Gordon – City of Knoxville, Law Department
Duane Grieve – Committee Member, City Council Representative
Elizabeth Wright – Committee Member
Erin Donovan – Committee Member
Faris Eid – Committee Member
Jeffrey Lockett – Committee Member
John Powers – Committee Member
Judith Foltz – City of Knoxville, Office of Special Events
Liza Zenni – Staff Liaison
Melinda Meador – Committee Member
Mike Fowler – Committee Member
Rachel Perkins – Committee Administrator
Rick Emmett – City of Knoxville, Downtown Coordinator
Sara Pinnell – Committee Member
Susana Esrequis – Committee Member

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

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

Conflict of Interest Policy

Liza asked Doug Gordon to guide the Committee regarding replacing the conflict of interest policy with one that would allow talented artists and landscape architects to serve on the committee. Several members of the Committee have expressed concern about continuing to serve on the Committee because of their interest in submitting applications for upcoming projects. Doug presented sample guidelines from the Board of Zoning Appeals. The BZA guidelines on Conflict of Interest state, “A Board member shall not act in a case in which he has a personal, financial, or other interest and shall recuse himself from all participation when the matter is formally presented to the Board for consideration. Any Board member who has been

recused shall immediately leave the room or shall be seated with the other members of the public who are present. The recused board member shall not give testimony in favor or in opposition of an application being considered by the Board. Once the matter has concluded, the member shall be reseated with the Board.” Doug noted that BZA does not award city money and therefore, the guidelines for the Public Arts Committee may need to be stricter than the BZA guidelines. Duane felt strongly that any member of the committee who responded to an RFP or RFQ generated by the committee should immediately submit their resignation from the committee. If their proposal was rejected, the committee member could rejoin the committee at the discretion of the mayor, after a reasonable amount of time (6 months). Faris suggested including non-voting members in an advisory capacity. Duane supported the idea and stated that an advisory committee had been created in the past from former committee members. Bart made a motion to ask Doug to draft a few potential conflict of interest policies for the Committee to consider. Duane seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Cradle of Country Music Park Plan

Liza shared Janice McClelland’s notes from the RFQ regarding a selection committee. Janice, Assistant Purchasing Agent for the City of Knoxville, indicated that she would prefer a small selection committee, with a representative from the Purchasing Division, a representative from Downtown Development, and 2-3 representatives from the Public Arts Committee. Several committee members expressed concern about a limited selection committee and asked Liza to speak with Janice about including the entire Public Arts Committee in the selection process. Doug stated that from a legal perspective, the entire committee should be present for the selection process.

Liza asked the Committee for input regarding the RFQ: should the request be limited to artist-led teams or should it also be open to individual artists? Jeff feels that individual artists should not be excluded from the process. Duane reminded the Committee that the money in the Public Art fund is intended to fund works of art, not landscaping. Faris feels the art should be designed with the park in mind. Bart asked if there is a plan or money available from the city for landscaping. Rick stated that Cradle of Country Music Park is not technically a park, but Joe Walsh (Director of Parks and Recreation) did contribute \$60,000 for the project. Rick stated

there is not currently additional funding intended for the re-development of the park, and he encouraged the committee to continue applying for funding from outside sources. Liza stated that the park is situated in an important location for the city and she feels the art and landscaping are equally important to the success of the park. Bart stated that from his experience, artists will not be interested in seeking out architects/landscape architects to develop a team application. Liza asked Mike to share his experience working on a public art project in Chattanooga. Mike stated that Chattanooga developed a basic site plan and did an initial landscape contract. Once the basic plan for the layout of the park was organized, Chattanooga's Public Arts Committee issued an RFQ for artists. The artist and the landscape team worked together on the project and Mike felt it was a successful project. Mike stated that Chattanooga also held a public input and design charrette similar to the input sessions held for Cradle of Country Music Park. Chattanooga's committee used the designs created at the charrette to create a program statement to inform project applicants. Sara feels that Chattanooga's project is a good model for the Committee to follow for the Country Music park project. Liza shared that she intends to meet with representative from Chattanooga, Memphis, and Nashville's public art programs to learn from their experiences commissioning works of art.

Prioritized Plan for Public Art

Liza met with Sara earlier in the week to discuss Sara's idea for a public art location plan. Sara suggested committee members could identify locations within the city for public art and prioritize which locations would benefit the most. Liza presented a map of the city, created by KGIS. The map identifies city parks, city and county buildings, and land owned by the city and county. Rick will highlight areas on the map that are being developed and will also share a map of current downtown projects. Susana suggested overlaying the map with current public art locations. Liza will work with Jon and Rick to develop a more comprehensive map for the next meeting. Liza asked committee members to indicate if they are available to work on this project. Mike, Jeff, Melinda, Susana, Erin, Chuck, John, Elizabeth, and Sara indicated they were interested in working on the project.

Everly Brothers Park

Duane stated that the Bearden Council is still developing ideas for the Everly Brothers project and they will coordinate with the Public Arts Committee when they are ready to issue an RFP.

Future Meetings:

- A. The next regular meeting is Thursday, July 2, 2015 at 4:00 PM
 - a. The meeting will be held at the Knoxville Museum of Art boardroom.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 PM.

Members Absent:

Marcus Hall

Mark Heinz