

ART COMMISSION

Minutes of the meeting Wednesday, April 27, 2016
Beginning at 2:08 p.m.

PRESENT OF THE COMMISSION: Indovina, Heidemann, Lockett, Astorino,
Slavick, Moss, Carlise

PRESENT OF THE STAFF: Susan Tymoczko
Lisa Ray

AGENDA ITEMS COVERED IN THESE MINUTES

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A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

On motion by Lockett and seconded by Moss, the minutes of the January 27, 2016 meeting were approved.

On motion by Lockett and seconded by Moss, the minutes of the February 24, 2016 meeting were approved.

On motion by Heidemann and seconded by Lockett, the minutes of the March 23, 2016 meeting were approved.

B. Items for Review

- 1. *Butler Street Stormwater Planter Project (Final Review)***
Jenn Kullgren, Tree Pittsburgh

Kullgren presented plans for the placement of five stormwater planters adjacent to existing storefronts along Butler St., The project received conceptual approval in February and presented site plans today showing the exact locations of the planters with dimensions.

Astorino asked what is the construction material.

Kullgren stated that it varies in height and the material is treated lumber with a liner inside and a downspout disconnecter for water.

MOTION: Final Approval

MOVED BY Slavick
IN FAVOR All
OPPOSED None

SECONDED BY Heidemann

CARRIED

2. Liberty Avenue (Bloomfield) Streetscape Demonstration Project (Conceptual)

Christina Howell, Bloomfield Development Corporation

Howell present plans for temporary placement of two different sets of benches, trash receptacles and planters in a one-block area of Liberty Avenue in Bloomfield for up to six weeks total, in order to collect community feedback. The applicant has presented support letters from the adjacent property owners. The preferred option will be install permanently as a resource and allow in conformance with Art Commission and Public Works requirements. The planters will have a insert in them to reserve water and the garbage cans will be a city adopted brand and the City of Pittsburgh will maintain those cans.

Indovina wanted to know why there are 2 alternatives.

Howell stated they were hoping the Art Commission could make the decision. Luckett wanted to know how many would you have throughout the year.

Howell stated that they do not have a number at this time.

Luckett asked how many benches and the process should be planned out so there is no confusion.

Indovina wanted to know if the benches will be on display during Little Italy Days.

Howell stated that hopefully they will be in place by then.

Indovina wanted to know how the evaluation process will take place.

Howell stated that Neighborhood Allies along with City Planning will assist them with the evaluation process.

Slavick wanted to know if the planters were Fiberglass and what where the colors.

Howell stated they are fiberglass and green and grey in color.

Heidemann wanted to know once the benches are removed who will fill the holes.

Slavick stated she would like to see wood benches and wood planters for consistency.

Bruce Chan of Bloomfield spoke in support of the project.

Moss asked if this was only temporary?

Indovina stated that this is only Conceptual.

Howells stated that this is for approval for temporary placement of these benches and planters.

Luckett asked about Main Street

Howell stated that they will visit that option but the sidewalks are tighter on Main Street.

Astorino asked if the applicant can come back with less options for easier conversation.

MOTION: Conceptual

MOVED BY Slavick
IN FAVOR
OPPOSED

All
None

SECONDED BY Astorino

CARRIED

3. Strawberry Way Temporary Street Mural Project (Conceptual Review)

*Phoebe Downing, Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership
Kate Hansen, Office of Public Art*

Downing gave a brief background concerning the project. Plans are underway pending approval to create a temporary street painting on Strawberry Way to last from one to three years. This is intended to complement intermittent lunchtime closings of the Way to accommodate table-and-chair seating, and also for the use of the space for summer event programming. The Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership will be responsible for eventual removal of the painting.

Hansen reviewed and gave an overview of the project. PDP approached the Office of Public Art for a temporary mural. The artist registry selection process included 15 applicants 12 chosen and they narrowed it down to 3. Deanna Mance was selected.

Mance gave presentation of her professional background and showed samples of the art she created. She showed 3 possible designs for the mural and design number 3 was selected. She gave information on the types of paints used which are being donated by PPG. The mural will last for up to 3 years and may fade after 1 year.

Hansen stated that they are in discussions with DPW regarding materials and best options for a project like this. Materials will dictate what type of design Deanna will use.

The stakeholder meeting was held last week and they were pleased with all the designs. They will phase this project and do most of the work during the off peak hours.

Lockett wanted to know about the stakeholder process.

Downey stated that all stakeholders along Strawberry Way. They heard from all except for AT&T. All of them had a part of the artist selection process.

Slavick is there a reason why there was not an open call for artist

Renee Hichocki of the Office of Public Art stated that it was used due to timelines.

Slavick wanted to know who is overseeing this project.

Hichocki stated that the Office of Public Art and the Public Art Manager and the Art Commission all act as curators. The most serious constraint is the absence of a Public Art Manager. There are costs for the RFP and RFQ process.

Hansen stated the original goal was to have it done by the Arts Festival.

Slavick asked about the background.

Downey stated it is the asphalt.

Moss asked how many artists are in the registry.

Hansen stated 600 including non visual artists.

Vivian Lee of 611 William Penn Place spoke in support of the mural and believes it will enhance the neighborhood as a whole.

MOTION: Final Approval

MOVED BY Astorino
IN FAVOR All
OPPOSED None

SECONDED BY Heidemann

CARRIED

4. Allegheny Riverfront Under the Ft. Duquesne Bridge (Courtesy Review)
Stephan Bontrager, Riverlife

Bontrager gave brief presentation on the plans for the 2nd year of a multi-year project to activate PennDot property under the Ft. Duquesne Bridge with a display of artwork wrapped around the bridge piers on temporary scaffolding. The artwork will be provided by CAPA students.

Sayar Shannon a student at CAPA spoke about the project and how much it means to the students.

Moss wanted to know what does the City have to with the project.

Tomoczko stated that it is private property.

MOTION: Courtesy Review

MOVED BY Heidemann
IN FAVOR All
OPPOSED None

SECONDED BY Luckett

CARRIED

Diretor Gastil reported on the status of the Art Manager vacancy. They are moving along with the process and will keep the Commission informed. There is was also discussion regarding the P4 Committee and their need to have one person from the Art Commission represented in the committee.

Meeting Adjourned