

The City of Frederick, Maryland
PUBLIC ART COMMISSION
Minutes of February 14, 2017
(Approved August 8, 2017)

Members Present: C. Moreland, W. Poindexter, D. Rosano, A. Cain, T. Daniel, M. Battles

Staff Present: B. Smith, S. Stamper, Alderman D. Kuzemchak

Regrets / Absent: K. Kuranda, N. Hutchings

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

Meeting called to order at 4:30 p.m. by V Chair, W. Poindexter. C. Moreland arrived after the meeting had started.

MINUTES: Review of the October 11, 2016 Minutes.

Motion by D. Rosano to approve.

2nd by T. Daniel.

Unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion of a proposal by Downtown Frederick Partnership to install a mural by artist Goodloe Bryon painted on the western façade of the Church Street Parking Garage.

Ms. Kara Norman, Downtown Frederick Partnership (DTFP), presented the application. She gave each commission member a hardcopy packet of the proposed sketches. She stated that in 2015 the organization (DTFP) turned 25. At that time a plan for the next five years was created, in which the organization picked five key things on which to focus. One of the key components was to reinforce connections in downtown Frederick. Increased connections strengthen all of downtown.

Ms. Norman stated that the proposal is to create a mural on the Church Street Parking garage in the alley near the garage entrance. The mural would end at Brewers Alley. Mr. Phil Bowers, owner of Brewer's Alley was also present on behalf of the application. He has written a letter of support which is contained in the application packet.

Ms. Norman indicated that there are string lights proposed on the pedestrian alleyway. She stated that the alleyway is frequently "tagged" with graffiti and the lights will help be a deterrent. They are working with the appropriate contacts within the City for the lights. Ms. Norman turned the presentation over to Mr. Goodloe Byron, artist.

Mr. Byron stated that the dinosaur depicted on the mural is the official Maryland State Dinosaur. This is the type of dinosaur which would have been present in this area of Maryland. He indicated that the mural starts immediately to the right of Julianne's sandwich shop. The stairwell will not be painted as part of the mural. Then the mural starts at Starbucks. The mural is not on the whole area of the parking garage due to vantage areas.

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Mr. Byron responded to a question posed by W. Poindexter by stating that there would be a rider on the dinosaur. There may be the possibility of doing other figurative features on parts of the mural. However, the artist will have to lean over the edge of the parking garage to paint some areas, and so did not want to make too many promises. Responding to M. Battles question, he stated it would probably take one to two weeks to paint the mural. The mural will end and bleed straight down to the alleyway.

Mr. Byron answered A. Cain's question by stating that what is represented in the reflection is architecture of space and then some of the buildings. There will be more than open clouds behind the dinosaur. He is trying to keep the colors in the mural within the wayfinding color system palette (directional signs through City).

Mr. Byron responded to A. Cain's question about avoiding having the graffiti tagged by stating that there is not a lot that can be done to prevent the graffiti. However, it will be Sherwin Williams A100 paint with primer first. He thinks longer blank alleyway would be tagged instead of the mural. However, he stated that the mural would be pretty easy to fix. He stated that the parking deck is planned to be torn down in 5-7 years. Ms. Norman stated that the garage was built in 1975.

Mr. Byron responded to A. Cain's questions by stating that all the riders on the dinosaurs would be prehistoric animals representative of this area. He is working on some type of explanatory text. Perhaps on the saddle he could indicate that it was the Maryland State Dinosaur or display the Maryland flag.

Ms. Norman stated that the mural must be reviewed by the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC). One of the requirements of the HPC is that the Public Art Commission provide a letter of recommendation, and the reasons for the recommendation to the HPC. City staff will draft a letter for C. Moreland to sign (as chairman).

W. Poindexter stated that in his opinion the application was thorough, funded, placed in a neglected area known for vandalism, is addressing the lighting issue, and part of the mission of this commission is to increase public art City wide. He also stated that it is an aesthetically talented artist and a strong artist. The mural will be part of the Bower's establishment. The art is expressionistic and will appeal to all ages. The quality is fresh, exciting and he is glad Frederick is moving in that direction. The mural is both hip and historic.

D. Rosano added that the mural was well thought out with space constraints, community friendly, and nice colors.

Alderman D. Kuzemchak noted that the HPC has to make findings of fact.

Motion by W. Poindexter to recommend approval.

2nd by D. Rosano

Motion was unanimously approved.

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UPDATES:

Mural at Stadium:

B. Smith indicated that he met with Yemi (stadium mural). Yemi had attended the Parks & Recreation Commission and received a recommendation of concept approval. The next step is a Mayor and Board workshop. Then, return to Public Arts, Parks & Recreation Commission, and Mayor and Board meeting.

Mosaics:

A. Cain stated that there were no updates on the backing until sure of funding. B. Smith indicated that the backing is funded in the budget at this time. However, an updated proposal is needed.

Mural in Fitness Center:

During the renovations downstairs, someone suggested a mural be painted on the interior wall of the fitness center which the cardio equipment faces. The commission stated that since it is a public space, it should be heard by the Public Art Commission.

Lights in Trees near Mullinix Park

W. Poindexter suggested that lighting be placed in the trees along the creek from Ice Street to the Bentz Street side near the pool and where there are three new restaurants. He thinks lights would encourage people to walk there. B. Smith stated that he would check to see if there is electricity in the area, and the feasibility of maintenance of the lighting.

Arts Council Meeting about Public Art: C. Moreland stated that she had been invited to a meeting of the Arts Council about public art. She noted that it is in the beginning stages. She suggested making them aware of some ideas from the commission, which they were unable to fund. She suggested that the commission compose a list of ideas to forward. Alderman Kuzemchak stated that the Ausherman's hired the person in charge. A. Cain stated that artwork in the City limits would have to be brought before this commission. C. Moreland suggested handing over the Gateway Frederick project to the new committee. B. Smith asked that future emails regarding the new committee be forwarded to him.

Michael Proffitt

C. Moreland stated that K. Kuranda's life partner, Michael Proffitt, died last week as a result of a fat embolism and cardiac arrest during surgery after a skiing accident.

Monolithe

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Alderman Kuzemchak stated that the Mayor's office has been trying to make contact regarding this project. A. Cain suggested trying to contact via hard copy letter sent in the mail as she knows they travel frequently.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by C. Moreland to adjourn the meeting at 5:40 pm.
Unanimously Approved.