

The City of Frederick, Maryland
PUBLIC ART COMMISSION
Minutes of March 10, 2020
(Approved June 9, 2020)

Members Present: A. Cain, T. Daniel, D. Rosano, W. Poindexter, E. Wise VanderWoude, L. Stewart,

Regrets / Absent: Alderwoman D. Kuzemchak, K. Kuranda

Staff Present: B. Smith, Dep. Director for Parks & Recreation; S. Stamper, Office Manager

Guests Present: Kara Norman, Downtown Frederick Partnership; Graham Coreil-Allen (phone) for Maxwell Flow; Ms. Kyriaka (Kiki) Goti (phone) for Happy Stripe; Mr. Chris Volkert (phone) for Colorful Frederick; Thomas Sterner, for Wayfinding; Jeff Huntington for Dog Park, Linda Moran, Carolyn Greiner, Sharon Stup, Frederick Art Club;

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

A Cain called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

MINUTES: February 11, 2020

E. Wise VanderWoude moved to approve the minutes as written. D. Rosano seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

Review and discussion of unchARTed, a design competition and installation sponsored by Downtown Frederick Partnership in cooperation with the Potomac Valley Architecture Foundation, AIA Potomac Valley and the Frederick Arts Council. The three Design Award Winners are: Maxwell Flow on Maxwell Alley; Happy Stripe on JoJo's Alley; and Colorful Frederick at the entrance to the Carroll Creek Public Parking Garage. They will be reviewed and discussed as separate agenda items:

Ms. Kara Norman, Downtown Frederick Partnership (DFTP), explained unchARTed. She noted that this competition received 22 entries for preselected alleyways. Some of the requirements were that the art must be safe for the public, and must be able to be constructed in 7 days. The plan is to install the artwork in May 2020. Each piece of art would be in place for one year. The proposal requests were for site specific designs. A design jury reviewed the entries anonymously—meaning the designs were reviewed without the artists' names revealed. As the artists are from out of town, she will be phoning each applicant, so they can be a part of the meeting/discussion.

Maxwell Flow

The Maxwell Flow pavement art installation, acting as an extended site-specific crosswalk, will connect residents and visitors with Downtown Frederick's public library and adjacent Carroll Creek Park.

Ms. Norman handed out a sketch of the Maxwell Flow request.

Mr. Graham Coreil-Allen, artist, answered the phone and was present at the meeting via telephone. The phone was put on speaker. His design incorporates the formal features of the library and pedestrian bridge with the everyday features of the parking garage. The site is one of contradictions. The proposal will install a network of lines – reflective of the intuitive pathway, creek. The teal/turquoise color suggests a natural way. The reverberating blue plays off the subtle edge of the curb, abstract aspect of the water. The purple lines are across the crosswalk. The material itself is Alumigraphics Grip printed metal backed tape with strong traction, made for outside use. The tape has a recommended life of outside of a year, and can be removed without hurting the brick.

W. Poindexter asked what prevented just anyone from pulling up the tape. Mr. Allen responded it could be removed, but the tape is sturdy and adheres well. It is planned to be temporary for a one year period.

In response to A. Cain's question, Ms. Norman asked Mr. Coreil-Allen to clarify the two shades of blue. Mr. Coreil-Allen stated that the diagonal line from the parking lot to the stairs is a lighter blue. The angular lines of the curb line is a solid cobalt color. He answered T. Daniel's question by stating that every line is the same width (6 inches).

A Cain noted her concern of the tape peeling up, and wondered about a contingency plan.

Ms. Norman said the project is temporary, planned for one year. The project could be removed early. Downtown Frederick Partnership is funding the project. The majority of the project is on the sidewalk with some on the crosswalk. Downtown Frederick Partnership will be monitoring the condition of the project. The Partnership has a team meeting scheduled to come up with a plan.

L. Stewart asked if DTFP would let the project deteriorate or remove. Ms. Norman replied that if the art does not last one year, DTFP will remove it early.

W. Poindexter said viewing the proposed plan on the screen in the meeting room, was much easier. He likes the design and said it is rather nice with the two shades of the blue. He can now see the wave of motion of the water now that it has been explained.

D. Rosano moved to recommend approval of the request to the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC). E. Wise VanderWoude seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

Happy Stripe

Happy Stripe is a site-specific installation for Jojo's Alley in Downtown Frederick. It is a playful linear installation made out of a steel frame and hanging nylon ropes.

Ms. Kyriaki (Kiki) Goti, artist, was present via telephone. She stated that she was a professional designer in New York.

Ms. Norman pointed to the section of the 2nd sheet of the 11x17 drawing and pointed out the planes of the building, and where it was depicted on the drawing to respond to D. Rosano's question. She then stated that it was a U shaped canopy supported by legs attached to the sidewalk. The artwork is not attached to the building. She said the project will need to obtain a building permit, and go through the engineering department. The poles are four inches apart to prevent snow from laying on it. It was purposely designed with a zip tie so that if weight is put on the structure, the (lightweight) line will come down. In response to W. Poindexter's question, she indicated that it will not run the full length of the alley.

Responding to D. Rosano's question, Ms. Norman indicated that she had spoken with the owner of JoJo's. She explained that part of the requirements of the contest design was that there was a list of things (access to businesses, fire hydrants, utilities) that could not be blocked or impeded.

Ms. Norman explained (to answer question by L. Stewart) that a smaller portion of the project extends out onto the sidewalk. It's 13 ½ ft at the sidewalk and drops down when walking down alley. She further explained in response to a question that there is a stairwell to the Carroll Creek Parking Garage and an apartment building entrance down this particular walkway. The goal is to encourage people to move through the alley. There is a series of robust pedestrian lighting. The budget is only \$10,000 and they have to see how much lighting can be installed with that amount of money.

D. Rosano moved to recommend concept approval to the Historic Preservation Commission. T. Daniel seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

Colorful Frederick

Colorful Frederick is a series of poles, creating overhead planes of bright colors meant to celebrate the vibrancy and livelihood of the arts in The City of Frederick.

Mr. Chris Volkert, artist, was contacted on the phone and joined the meeting. Ms. Norman stated that all the commission members have copies of the submittal. She asked Mr. Volkert to describe the inspiration of the project itself.

Mr. Volkert said as soon as he learned about the competition, he was interested. He got a whole bunch of people together to brainstorm. The group wanted to do bright and cheerful colors towards the library. The inspiration was a DIY (do it yourself) expressive and cost effective way that was child-like.

D. Rosano asked about the footing detail on Attachment 4 for posts into existing sidewalk. Mr. Volkert replied that he is uncertain what material will be used because structurally the art just needs something to go into for anchoring. He is working with Morgan Keller. Ms. Norman said that the contract requires all artists to return the site to original condition.

T. Daniel wanted to know if the rope frame depicted in Attachment 5 was metal or rope. Answer given by Mr. Volkert was that it was all rope. It is a lightweight structure with no movement of the rope. Responding to A. Cain's question, he noted that the height of the overhead colorful ropes was a minimum of 10 ft. above ground, and maximum of 14 ft.

W. Poindexter asked about the color combination in Attachment 3. The answer was he is open minded to change. He also replied to another question by W. Poindexter and said that the canopy would be taut, not slack in design.

Ms. Norman replied to T. Daniel that DTFP will check and assess whether to repair or remove if project rope becomes slack over the one year period. The intent of DTFP is to maintain the project.

W. Poindexter mentioned that according to Attachment 3, the canopy seems askew, and to be moving in different directions. Mr. Chris said that the structure is created to allow canopy to jump around. He elaborated that the sign is part of the installation. The sign is desired for an introduction to the project and Frederick. The sign was also part of the competition requirements. The portion that looks like drums will be filled with concrete by Morgan Keller for ease of removal later. The construction of the sign will be straightforward. A few pieces of plywood nailed on perimeter of the sign and string rope through nails will be used with open topography.

Mr. Volkert responded to A. Cain's question and said that the intent is to have round seating (see attachment 2) on both sides. He likes the idea of creating a placemaking element. He also stated that the seating is optional – he could create or leave out.

Ms. Norman said that all three of the unchARTed projects were required to provide 5 ft. of clear passage. This project has a larger sidewalk than most areas. Mr. Volkert, stated that he is familiar with ADA requirements.

Ms. Norman explained that the canopy narrows as it goes around the corner due to the rear door at the southern end of the ramp. However, 5 ft. is still maintained.

E. Wise VanderWoude moved to recommend approval of the project to the Historic Preservation Commission. T. Daniel seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

Review and discussion of a request by Downtown Frederick Partnership for a Carroll Creek Park Art / Wayfinding Project. The sculpture depicts water plant flower stalks bending in the breeze or toward the sunlight. The proposal will create a highly visible, recognizable and welcoming gateway to the park. it uses the existing Wayfinding &

Signage System's identified font in the correct spacing and appropriate size, visible to pedestrians and motorists both day and night.

Ms. Kara Norman, Downtown Frederick Partnership (DFTP), explained that they had grant funds from Bring a Broom fundraising event. They received 10 proposals, and selected 4 of them. The request for proposals asked for site specific suggestions. A review group was created to create a short list. Some of the requirements were that the project be permanent, activate the space, be made of metal or durable material, and incorporate lighting and Wayfinding features. She showed a sketch of Wayfinding signs in the City. The project is to include the tented look into public art. She noted the piece will be City owned.

Mr. Thomas Sterner, referred to an audiovisual presentation board, His noted that his project satisfies all the proposal requirements. The material used for the project is stainless steel. He showed a sample of the material. It is large, but see thru. It is 30 flower stems depicted as blowing in the wind, with brightly colored flowers. The artwork will be smooth, but it will not be a surface good for sitting upon. He showed a 3D paper exhibit. The plan incorporates lighting. There will be one light with outdoor wattage coming out of the low flowers shining across the lettering for signage. There will be three rows of waves, with two rows of lights between. The lights are programmable. Each LED array is white, but can be programed to change color. He would like the lighting to have glitter effect over the water, but the programming can be changed.

In response to a question by W. Poindexter, Mr. Sterner stated that the flower buds are designed to look like lotus, not tulips. Mr. Sterner answered A. Cain's question and indicated that the flower buds will look like lotus flower and constructed without dangerous edges.

W. Poindexter noted that he liked the proposal.

E. Wise VanderWoude moved to recommend approval of the project to the Parks & Recreation Commission. T. Daniel seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

Review and discussion of a request by Jeff Huntington aka Jahru (Jahru LLC), to paint a mural on the building at the Dog Park located at 212 Carroll Parkway. The painting will be on three walls (approximately 7x22" each) and sidewall (approximately 14.15'). Each wall contains a depiction of a dog painted in a hyper-realistic manner with soft drop shadows that lend a 3-dimensional illusion, with a background of brightly colored geometric shapes arranged to give the illusion of 3-dimensional cubes protruding from the wall.

Mr. Jeff Huntington, artist, stated that this project consisted of a mural painted on three walls and a sidewall with image of a dog rendered in hyper-realistic from colored geometric shapes divisible by a triangle. It will look like 3D cubes. He will work with a nonprofit to use children to stencil on the geometric portion of the painting, but not the hyper-realistic portion. The children can also do some underpainting with spray paint. To answer a question posed by the commission. He noted that the geometric shapes portion of the mural will be spray paint, but the dog portion will be bucket paint.

W. Poindexter asked about the seams. Mr. Huntington answered that the seams will be clean/sharp. He referred to the sketch shown on the screen projected from a laptop. The four dogs will have drop shading.

A Cain wanted to know the process for how school children would be engaged. Mr. Huntington responded that he was going to rely on the Boys & Girls Club and possibly the YMCA. The focused age group for the children would be 12-18 year olds.

L. Stewart mentioned that closer to the project start date, outreach could be done. Maybe talk to the Housing Authority.

Mr. Huntington responded to a question posed by A. Cain about how long it would take to complete the project, start to finish. He said that it would be a three week window, but 7-10 days for the project. The mural is low to the ground and lifts are not needed. No more than two weeks.

Mr. Huntington replied to A. Cain, that since it is an active dog park, he will use folding tables, and use caution. Although, there will be corners where dogs will lift a leg. B. Smith interjected that there will be temporary fencing during the project.

While discussing the surface prep of the building, Mr. Huntington referred to a photo of what the building looks like now. He generally doesn't do wall repair. The paint only needs spot primed. Wall repair would need to be done by the building owner. Maintaining the mural would be his Jeff Huntington) job.

A Cain directed the conversation to B. Smith who noted that when the building was inspected awhile back, there were no deficiencies.

D. Rosano moved to recommend concept approval of the project to the Parks & Recreation Commission. T. Daniel seconded the motion which was unanimously approved. W. Poindexter moved to approve funding from the Public Art Reserve Fund. The motion was unanimously approved.

Review and discussion of a request by the Frederick Art club to review the revised site plan and base of bronze for the Claire McCardell Project.

Ms. Linda Moran, Frederick Art Club, was present for this application. She stated that unfortunately the artist, Sarah Hempl Irani, was in self quarantine. Ms. Carolyn Greiner and Ms. Kristi Stup, and Ms. Sharon Poole, Frederick Art Club members are also present.

Ms. Stup explained that the base will be a sculptured look and then smooth to create contrast. The lettering will be inset. It goes well with the material. She said it has some red in it, and the base is hand hewn looking.

D. Rosano commented that this pedestal is smaller than the originally proposed. Ms. Stup said it is smaller and leveled. This design is softer and more artistic looking.

W. Poindexter asked the cost of the base-14,000? Ms. Moran responded yes, which includes lettering.

D. Rosano moved to approve the revision to the pedestal. T. Daniel seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

Ms. Sharon Poole talked about the site plan. She said when she visited the site to get a feel of where it would be, she wanted the space to be a gathering place for people to meander. It is designed to blend with all the curbs. She chose the pattern based on Clare's dress and kept with a plaid pattern of red brick, the same brick as situated on Carroll Creek Park. The plaque portion will be gray or bronze colored brick. There will be two bench areas. Natural materials will be used, and they will be pressure based so they are more permeable. Some boulders are in the area. The donor plaque will be mounted on a large flat boulder. it will be low maintenance. Ms. Moran interjected that it had been designed in consultation with Ms. Irani.

Ms. Moran explained to A. Cain that the benches are part of the design because they want people to sit there and reflect. Claire McCardell was a business woman, way ahead of her time. This location is a good place for story telling. Perhaps Heritage Frederick. When looking at the structure, you will not be wondering who paid for the project.

Ms. Carolyn Greiner, said that the site of the sculpture on Carroll Creek is nice to have a place to come to and contemplate. It could be a destination, as it does not look industrial.

Ms. Moran replied to W. Poindexter's question about the walls being different levels, by stating that the project is ADA compliant.

Ms. Sharon Poole said the lighting is flush with the paving, the sculpture itself.

A Cain noted that the commission is in the process of formulating guidelines for signage.

Ms. Moran said the target date for installation is May 2021 – Claire's birth month. She is hoping to plan an event at the Delaplaine.

Letter requesting 25k funding

Ms. Moran said \$14,930 is the cost for the pedestal. The 25K request encompasses that 14K.

Ms. Moran responded to various questions from the commission. She stated that the bronze material would cost about 10K at Lowes. She has been told that the price is raised every January. The 10K includes lettering. However, the landscaping is not included in the cost.

A. Cain reiterated that the 25K request is broken down into 15K for the pedestal, and 10K for the signage. Ms. Moran stated that the garden setting would cost more money. Ms. Moran indicated that she has received an estimate for the gardening.

W. Poindexter said that he was fine with the request. He thinks using the stone and making into art is a good idea. He thinks they should fund the base and do without the gardening.

Ms. Moran said the lighting cost is 10K.

W. Poindexter said he sees the stone as artwork. Is the commission now funding landscaping?

L. Stewart said the letter requesting funding states it will be in a gardenlike setting.

D. Rosano recommended the applicant revise the letter. She suggested conditionally approving the project with the letter revisions. The Mayor will want specifics.

Ms. Moran agreed to rewrite the letter to cover the base and donor stone. Would it be helpful to consider as necessary as part of "setting". L. Stewart said the donor plaque is part of the sculpture.

D. Rosano said the site plan is going before the Parks & Recreation Commission, and does not need Public Art Commission approval. A motion is needed regarding the request for funding.

D. Rosano moved to approve funding for the Frederick Art Club in the amount of 25K for the creation of stone granite base and bronze donor plaque. W. Poindexter seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

Miscellaneous:

Budget Hearings/Public Art Reserve Fund

D. Rosano reminded that the budget hearings for 2021 are April/May.

B. Smith stated that the Public Art Fund does not live in any budget. It lives on a cloud until the Mayor and Board make a motion to move the funds into the Parks & Recreation department budget.

L. Stewart asked how/when to request funding for the dog park.

B. Smith said that a request should be made at an upcoming Mayor and Board meeting to use the funds now. A. Cain said she would write a letter from the Public Art Commission to the Mayor, requesting funds.

B. Smith said budget hearings will be the second meeting in April. He said the budget workshops vary. There are two requests from the Public Art Reserve Fund: Dog park (10K); Claire McCardell project (24K).

Subcommittee

A Cain announced that E. Wise VanderWoude has a list of art conservators on call. Assessments are needed. This will be discussed more at the next meeting.

Acquisition Policy – The signage section is lengthy. A. Cain requested assistance in drafting. T. Daniel and L. Stewart will assist with the signage portion.

ADJOURNMENT:

D. Rosano moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:46 p.m. W. Poindexter seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.