

The City of Frederick, Maryland  
PUBLIC ART COMMISSION  
Virtual Meeting via MS Teams  
Minutes of March 9, 2021  
(Approved April 13, 2021)

Members Present: A. Cain, T. Daniel, D. Rosano, W. Poindexter, E. Wise VanderWoude, L. Staruk, D. Doxzen, K. Kuranda

Regrets / Absent: None

Staff Present: Alderwoman D. Kuzemchak: Bob Smith, Deputy Director for Parks & Recreation; S. Stamper, Office Manager

Guests Present: Ms. Natasha Owens Blair and Ms. Lusmerlin Lantigua for Black Lives Mural

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

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

MINUTES: February 9, 2021

D. Rosano moved to approve the minutes as published. K. Kuranda seconded the motion which was unanimously approved. E. Wise VanderWoude had not yet arrived at the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

**Review and discussion of a request by Black Lives Mural - Frederick to move the current mural installed at Sky Stage to a temporary installation (from March/April - June/July 2021) at William R. Diggs Memorial Pool in downtown Frederick. The mural consists of three (3) 4x6 ft exterior grade Birch wood panels, painted and sealed and installed onto standing plywood stage flats. The applicants have met with Bob Smith about the details of installation and are proposing to install onto the metal fencing surrounding the pool. The piece would encompass 12 x 6' of space on the north-facing portion of exterior fence along the Carroll Creek sidewalk. The applicants prefer the mural to be central, near the lamp post and above the William R. Diggs memorial plaque. They are open to installation on the portion of fencing best suited for bearing the weight of the piece. Each 4 x 6 panel weighs 40 lbs. and will be secured with a fence clamp either purchased or constructed with wood and bolts.**

Ms. Natasha Bowens, Black Lives Mural - Frederick, summarized the request to temporarily install the mural on the fence at William R. Diggs Memorial Pool beneath the plaque of Mr. Diggs. She believes this location fits in with the mission of the organization and is situated in the black community. She also feels it will raise awareness of the project before the art pieces are moved to locations outside of the downtown area.

There was discussion regarding the hardware to attach the mural to the fence (metal clamps), so the mural could not be removed without using tools. There will be a plaque mounted to the fence that lists the artist's name and some background information about the project.

T. Daniel mentioned that the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) will need to review the proposed location of the mural, as well as any proposed descriptive plaque/signage to accompany the mural.

B. Smith stated that DPW staff met onsite and found the fence to be solid with posts set in concrete. The main concern is windshear. The Recreation Supervisor responsible for aquatics did not have any concerns if there are no sharp edges on the mural, mounting, or fence materials.

There was discussion regarding, and the applicant agreed to mount the mural with spaces in between the panels to avoid damage from wind shear. The applicant also agreed to paint the backside of the mural which faces in towards the pool patrons, in complementary blue/green jewel tones used in the mural, to increase aesthetics.

Alderwoman D. Kuzemchak stated that she would be more comfortable if DPW staff were consulted/involved when the installation is performed. The applicant agreed to perform the labor and consult with DPW staff.

D. Rosano moved to recommend approval of the proposed temporary location of the mural on the fence at William Diggs Pool, with the conditions that the mural is mounted to the fence with adequate spacing to avoid any issue with wind shear, the clamping mechanisms are safe to avoid personal injury to the public, and that the rear of the mural is painted blue/green jewel tones used in the front of the mural for aesthetic purposes. T. Daniel seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

Discussion Items:

Subcommittee Updates:

### **Shawbaker Flag**

D. Rosano stated that since last month's PAC meeting, she had been in contact with Julia Brennan, and collected paperwork for a Purchase Order. As soon as the Purchase Order has been obtained, the conservation work will be scheduled. The conservator will dismantle the frame and take the flag and frame to her workshop. At this point, there is no overall timeline. The City's Communication Department had indicated an interest in video documenting the removal and re-installation of the flag.

D. Rosano indicated that the conservator is world renown. There was an article about her in The New York Times newspaper recently.

D. Rosano explained that Option 1 of the proposal which conserves further deterioration of the flag, but leaves historical damage on the flag intact, utilizes a UV protective glass. However, that glass will be reflective dependent upon the lighting in the area. Ostium glass is more expensive but can be difficult to obtain. To change the glass from the UV glass to the Ostium glass would add approximately \$4K to the approved amount.

Alderwoman D. Kuzemchak asked B. Smith if any surplus from West Side Regional Park at the end of this fiscal year could be redirected to the installation of ostium glass. B. Smith stated that it could be revisited as an option.

### **City Seal**

A Cain stated that the Purchase Order has been obtained, and the vendor is registered with the City. As soon as the invoice has been paid, the conservation can proceed. She would like the City's Communication Department to video document the conservation of the seal.

Alderwoman D. Kuzemchak stated that it is a good idea to video document the conservation projects for positive public relations. The Communications Department staff are brilliant.

### **Public Art Inventory/Database**

A Cain stated that she has dropped the ball on updating the database. She will reach out to the website designed and get that moving again. Documentation will be a part of the database.

### **Acquisition Policy and Guidelines**

A Cain noted that she needed to work with Duane regarding this project.

## Signage

T. Daniel stated that she had consulted with Ms. Lisa Murphy, of the City's Historic Preservation Commission. Lisa is mostly concerned that no damage is done to the historic structure. Prior to the meeting T. Daniel redistributed the signage document reviewed by the Commission in June 2020. B. Smith shared the screen.

There was discussion regarding the need to create a policy regarding signage, so that there is some consistency regarding signage material, design, font, information content, logos, and donor information.

Items to consider:

- Top billing for artist name and title of artwork
- Allow donor lists and logos?
- Uniform size for logos? Text only?
- Separate sign for donors? Limit # of signs per piece?
- Character limit per signage
- Procedure to allow exceptions for good cause
- Exemption allowed if significant portion of funding by donor?
- Signage conforms to HPC guidelines/restrictions
- Material for signage
- Font/design for signage
- Size of signage
- Allow QR codes or URL links? - will technology be in existence in 10 years? Exempt some people from information due to lack of technology
- Signage mounting requirements - flush mounted in concrete?
- Limit information provided on signage- viewers experience the piece, not telling people what they are seeing
- Signage for variety of audiences from children to art curator

B. Smith responded to questions by indicating that a small concrete pad for flush mounting signs could be constructed by DPW.

A Cain noted that the cost of mounting would have to be included in the cost of the art piece.

There was discussion regarding the fact that the mosaics are titled "Bluestone Path Mosaics", but when installed on the wall, it will not be a path. There was discussion regarding deleting the "path" language, but that was part of the title given by the artist. The tiles were relocated because they were being damaged by snowplows due to their location and method of mounting. The need for explanatory text was discussed. It was suggested to ask the artist about removing "path" from the name of the project title.

D. Rosano and Alderwoman D. Kuzemchak both excused themselves from the meeting at 6 p.m. due to other obligations.

## Dog Park Mural

A Cain noted that L. Dewey Stuart had advised her that the vendor paperwork had been submitted to the City Purchasing Department.

## Bluestone Mosaic Wall

A Cain stated that hopefully the mortar would be placed in the wall soon, so can start planning an unveiling event.

## NEA Grant

A Cain indicated no more information regarding the grant.

Commission Vacancies

A Cain stated that there had not been any response to the vacancy posting. The application deadline will be extended.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

B. Smith indicated that a contract had been awarded to Green Play LLC to create a Parks Master Plan. He sent an email invitation to the PAC Commission at approximately 4 pm. today. The Task Force meeting specifically for the Public Art Commission will be held via Zoom at 7 pm on March 23.

ADJOURNMENT:

W. Poindexter moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:11 p.m. L. Staruk seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by the members still present at the meeting.