

REGULAR MEETING  
TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE  
PUBLIC ART COMMISSION  
5:30 P.M. THURSDAY, AUG. 10, 2006  
TOWN HALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: MIKE GILLESPIE, SARAH KUCHARSKI, PHILAN MEDFORD, PETER STERLING, MARILYN SULLIVAN, NORRETTA TAYLOR

MEMBERS ABSENT: NICOLE WILHELM, GEORGE ESCARAVAGE

ALSO PRESENT: FRED BAKER, RON HUELSTER, KAAREN STONER

Vice Chairman Mike Gillespie called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 6, 2006

Upon Medford's suggestion the minutes were changed to reflect discussions about the fundraising process and specific sites/projects under consideration. Sterling said that mention of encouraging public involvement and keeping the project selection process and commission as a whole transparent should be added to the minutes. With those changes, Taylor motioned for approval, which Sterling seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

GEORGE ESCARAVAGE AS CHAIRMAN

Huelster said that Escaravage told him that throughout the months of September and October Escaravage would be busy with soccer season. Consequently, Escaravage said he felt he should step down as Public Art Commission chairman. Huelster asked if this action was indeed what the Commission supported, or was there a desire to grant Escaravage a reprieve, allowing him to miss the meetings without the penalty of being removed from his post. Commission members said that they wished for Escaravage to stay on the board and Vice Chairman Gillespie fill in as Commission leader. Huelster said he would tell Escaravage he remained Chairman.

REPLACING MARGARET LANGSTON

Huelster said the Commission needed a new board member after Langston's resignation. Names submitted included David Erickson, co-owner of Twigs and Leaves. Huelster reported that Erickson would prefer to be on a Commission taskforce committee than a member and recommended his wife, Kaaren Stoner, in his place. The Commission agreed that Stoner was a fine recommendation and would move forward with her appointment.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Commission discussed a draft Medford had written which reads: "The PAC mission is to enrich the public realm through original public art that celebrates Waynesville's unique historic, cultural, natural and human/social resources. The PAC will establish a permanent collection and create a public Art Trail in Waynesville titled "Origins and

Destinations.” The trail will be designed to enhance pedestrian activity.” Medford said she liked “human” rather than “social,” a word often used by Commission consultant Laura Coats in her report. Sterling suggested including the word “engage” along with “enrich” to help foster public participation. Medford said she just wanted to make sure the public art was in the public realm. Taylor asked if public art should be defined. Medford said that would probably come later. Huelster recommended keeping the mission statement short and sweet, and not including definitions. Sullivan said the statement could most like be distilled down to one sentence. Taylor agreed saying that the Commission could inadvertently lock itself in to creating permanent art, meaning pieces could not be changed or removed. Sullivan motioned to accept the mission statement as written, which Taylor seconded. However, Sterling suggested the phrase be changed to read “to engage visitors and residents so as to enrich the public realm,” which after much discussion finally resulted in the following: “The PAC mission is to engage the community so as to enrich the public realm through original public art that celebrates Waynesville’s unique historic, cultural, natural and human resources.” Sullivan thereby rescinded her first motion, an action seconded by Taylor, and then Sullivan motioned for approval of the rewritten statement, which Taylor also seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

#### TASK FORCES

Huelster explained that the idea of task forces originally was conceived by the Public Art Committee (the non-official group that grew out of the town’s Streetscapes project and began work on a more permanent public art program, but was not town appointed). Members of the Commission should each be on a task force and be responsible for soliciting task force members. Medford volunteered to be on a task force, but not the chair of one due to medical conditions. Stoner said that Erickson may be able to chair a task force. Kucharski said that she could be on, but not chair the community relations task force. Wilhelm, though absent, seemed to Commission members an obvious choice for the artist relations task force. Also, Bill Eleazer, former art teacher at Tuscola High School, and Catherine Ellis, a weaver and Haywood Community College instructor, could be on the artist relations task force. The subject came up of artist on the Commission being able to submit artwork for consideration in Commission projects. Kucharski said that regardless of intent it would not appear above the board to do so. However, a final decision about such a policy would have to be made later on as criteria for submission are established. The discussion prompted Stoner to question whether she still wanted to be on the Commission if she was not able to submit her work for consideration. Stoner is a potter. The question arose if there would be a difference between a voting position such as being on the Commission and a non-voting position such as being on a task force in terms of perceived conflicts. The decision was made to move forward with appointing Stoner a member of the Commission and if the appointment became a conflict later on, the subject would be addressed then. The Commission’s first project may not be something for which a potter such as Stoner would wish to submit his or her work and thereby the Commission should not dispose of someone with Stoner’s knowledge and experience prematurely.

#### TIME LINE

Medford recommended that the Commission pick a date that members wanted to have an art project finished by and work backwards in terms of establishing a time line. The year 2008 seemed a good choice, as it would be the county's 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Sterling said two years would be enough time to get the public excited about the project. Sterling recommended that Commission members come to the next meeting with an idea for their first project. Medford said that personally she would like to see something done in honor of the Smoky Mountain Folk Festival, held at Lake Junaluska. The piece could be located near the old courthouse.

#### NEXT MEETING

Commission members set their next meeting for 5:30 p.m. Sept. 14, 2006 at Town Hall.

#### ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Medford motioned for adjournment, which Sterling seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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Chairman Mike Gillespie

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Secretary Sarah Kucharski