

The mission of the Waynesville Public Art Commission is to engage the community and enrich public spaces through original art that celebrates Waynesville's unique historic, cultural, natural and human resources.

REGULAR MEETING  
TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE  
PUBLIC ART COMMISSION  
5:30 P.M. THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2008

MEMBERS PRESENT: MIKE GILLESPIE, PHILAN MEDFORD, MARILYN SULLIVAN, KAAREN STONER, SARAH KUCHARSKI, CHRIS SYLVESTER, NORETTA TAYLOR, KAREN KAUFMAN

ALSO PRESENT: GAVIN BROWN, ALISON MELNIKOVA

Chairman Mike Gillespie called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

Mike opened the meeting by thanking Mayor Gavin Brown for attending, at our request, to discuss some of the concerns the Commission has regarding our structure, what the town expects us to accomplish and the various obstacles we have encountered so far. He asked about the number of projects we should try to implement and whether or not we should be involved in building projects.

Gavin responded that we should "be bold". He and the aldermen are looking to this commission for creativity. No one is exactly sure how to clearly define the art commission since one has never existed before. We need to develop our own identity and not be bound by too many rules and regulations. He said that because of the presentation Mike made in January he learned what public art actually was and that this will be a learning process for most people. It is up to the art commission to develop projects that will gain a public understanding.

Gavin also emphasized the need for a successful first venture and that for the first few years we should probably be conservative in our approach and not spread ourselves or the projects too thin. He assured us that the Town Board would be strongly behind any and all efforts we put forth and we should not worry about the money involved.

He told us that there would be public areas at the old Dayco site and places that could use public art. It is the art commission's role to develop projects and supply creativity and he would take care of negotiating with the private sector and bring money to the project.

We talked about fund raising and our lack of experience in this area. We have our first such event scheduled for May 29 and described what the plans were, i.e. the site, food, entertainment. We were concerned though about our ability to raise the \$20,000 needed to cover the artist's commission. We were assured by Gavin that this should not be a concern. He advised us to try what we are comfortable with and if that doesn't work, try something else. Don't be afraid, be bold!

Mike expressed our concern about the budget process which led us to this point where we needed clarification, reassurance and direction. Over the past 18 months, there has been no Town staff presence at our meetings leading to the need for many special meetings called and many hours spent researching information that should have been answered when the question arose. This has been a frustrating process and not very productive. Gavin then offered that Alison Melnikova could be our liaison and Alison agreed to participate in future meetings. He again said that we should not limit the creative process or get bogged down in the bureaucratic details. The town is looking to this commission for vision and new horizons. In describing himself and others on staff and town board being left-brain people and art commission members being the right-brain creative types, “we’re more afraid of you than you are of us”, he said.

Another concern expressed by the Commission is that of vacancies. There was discussion about the various commissions, vacancies and how these are filled. Gavin advised that the best source is through people we know who show an interest in actually working toward the goals we have set and not just someone who can fill a chair and wait for a plaque. Regarding the 4-year terms - “don’t be tied up with the rules”. There is flexibility.

Gavin assured us that he would help by getting people he knew involved in the fund-raising efforts and would also work with us developing a list of potential stakeholders. He would be willing to add personal notes to letters of invitation if we thought that would help. He also agreed to speak at the May 29 fund raiser. He offered that if we needed help in grant writing, Alison can do this.

Philan Medford asked Gavin about establishing an endowment for the art commission. Gavin said that an endowment would be a long-range plan for becoming more self-sustaining and saw this as a 20-year solution. He thought it should be done through the WNC foundation.

In conclusion, Gavin assured us that the Town Board was behind all our efforts, that we should not worry but let creativity be our emphasis.

#### APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 14 REGULAR MEETING

Kaaren Stoner moved that the minutes be approved, Noretta Taylor seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

#### APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 25 SPECIAL MEETING

Karen Kaufman moved that the minutes be approved, Philan Medford seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

#### TREASURER’S REPORT

Kaaren Stoner provided a report stating that the number should be slightly higher than presented as the recapture of sales tax was not included.

Noretta Taylor moved that the report be accepted. Chris Sylvester seconds. The motion is unanimously approved.

## TASK FORCES

**PROJECTS** – Marilyn Sullivan presented a 3-year plan for projects identifying topics, potential sites and a time frame for each. She suggested that we make a motion to accept the first two projects that would tie in with the budget request. Philan Medford stated that the third item on the list for GSMNP also be included since this had a timing element with the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the park. Following discussion Sara Kucharski moved that we accept the topics of Folkmoot, Paver Contest and the GSMNP commemorative object to be completed in a time frame between now and early 2010” Noretta Taylor seconds. The motion passed unanimously.

**ARTIST RELATIONS** - Kaaren Stoner has the three stipend checks ready to be sent to the finalists. She is in the process of finalizing the contract that will be used with our commissioned artist and will review with the town attorney as soon as it's prepared.

Mike Gillespie expressed his concern about the upcoming April 3 meeting with Jeffrey York. He believes that such a meeting would be more meaningful if it is held after the final selection of art is made. We discussed who would be likely to attend the April 3 meeting versus one held later in the summer. A later date could even include having the artist present (this could be written into the contract). At this point, we have flyers ready with the April 3 date and it has been posted on the web site. It was concluded that changing the date would not impact a significant number of people and Sarah Kucharski volunteered to be at the rec center April 3 to advise anyone who had not received word of the change. Noretta Taylor said that the JAM musical group was still not definite and that no reservation has yet been made for Mr. York. She said she would reschedule with the rec center and Kaaren Stoner will contact Mr. York regarding his calendar for late June or early July.

Philan Medford moved that we cancel the April 3 meeting and reschedule for June or July. Karen Kaufman seconds. Six yeas, one nay, the motion carries.

## COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Mike Gillespie distributed copies of the orientation packet that will be used for the advisory panel. Noretta Taylor asked that it include biographical data on the artists. It was also suggested that a copy of the ordinance describing the Art Commission be included. A copy of our brochure will also be part of the packet. At the meeting on April 26 we will have questionnaires available. We also thought it would be good to have applications for a commission seat at this meeting.

Chris Sylvester said that the Tranthams have confirmed as entertainment for the May 29 fund raiser. Noretta Taylor said the caterer is confirmed. We agreed that HART should be contacted about the use of their tent.

Sarah Kucharski asked if we wanted to have brochures available at several upcoming events and we concluded that brochures and/or inserts be used according to the venue.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

New member suggestions. We talked about the possibility of a Leadership Haywood listing providing names of people who might be interested.

We currently have approximately 30 confirmed for the advisory panel with several still not contacted and a few maybes. Noretta Taylor has sent letters to the Mayor and Town Board inviting them to attend April 26. Marilyn Sullivan is developing a list of all contacts made so we can review and be assured that there is a proper cross section of the community represented.

A revised budget was submitted as requested by Lee Galloway. Marilyn Sullivan moved that we accept the revised budget. Chris Sylvester seconds. The motion was unanimously approved.

## NEW BUSINESS

Kaaren Stoner had an application for a vendor site at “The Whole Blooming Thing” and asked if we were interested in doing this on May 10. Sarah Kucharski also suggested that brochures be put in galleries during the Art After Dark series. It was concluded that the “blooming thing” had little to do with art and that galleries were too busy during After Dark so that maybe having volunteers from the commission or task forces handing out brochures during After Dark would be a possibility.

## ADJOURNMENT

Kaaren Stoner moves that we adjourn. Marilyn Sullivan seconds. The motion is unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourns at 7:40 PM

## NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting will be held at 5:30 PM, Thursday April 10, 2008.

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Chairman, Mike Gillespie

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Secretary, Marilyn Sullivan