

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.

SPECIAL MEETING
TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE
PUBLIC ART COMMISSION
5:30 PM MAY 1, 2008
TOWN HALL

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

The meeting began at 5:35 PM.

The purpose of this meeting was to select the artist we will present to the Town Board May 13, 2008.

Mike Gillespie began the meeting by presenting a list of Lead Sponsors for the Old Time Music project as of May 1, 2008. The total amount received or committed is \$32,236.00 including \$7461 from TDA which can be used in total for the artist's commission. This total also includes \$9000 from the Town of Waynesville. Mike said that all of these backers are sold on the concept and are very positive about the project. He also declared that although it was considerable work, he "would be happy to do it again".

For our artists review, Mike will announce each artist and ask for discussion. This will be followed by a vote.

HARRY McDANIEL

Chris felt that this piece could go anywhere and represent any music theme. It did not say "old time music".

Philan was disappointed in what the three artists produced but felt McDaniel articulated vision the best. There is an environmental consideration with the piece since it is made of aluminum and that will oxidize with time and dull the metal. She would consider asking him to reduce the scale by 20%.

Kaaren does not feel the piece is too large for the site and the materials would be low maintenance. She questions the choice of subject matter – a guitar, to represent old time music. She felt a dulcimer or other instruments more appropriate.

Noretta felt the piece was too large for the space and would it be possible to ask the artist to reduce the size and change the instrument. She thought it was a piece suitable for a large, open space.

Karen thought the piece was large, bright and beautiful and it speaks to his talent. She could see his work being somewhere else with a different topic but this is not appropriate for the site or the subject.

Sarah favored McDaniel going into the presentation; however was disappointed in the choice of instrument and felt it was too abstract for our first project. She did not want to have to explain to people what it means. She appreciated the fact that he thought about materials relative to the “brick canvas”.

Mike felt the large aluminum piece did not represent Old Time Music with either subject or materials. He would like to work with him on another subject but for this piece, our first, he doesn’t want it to be so out of reach to the average, non-art person. He felt that we have been so successful with our donors that we need to consider what they might like and this would not be the piece for now.

Other observations were that McDaniel was quite nervous during his presentation and stated he was not used to presenting in front of a group. It was pointed out that in our letters of invitation, presenting to a large group was made very clear. Also, there will be at least two additional large group presentations required of the artist.

It was also felt that the piece was too much like the recent piece in Asheville. The shapes were similar but the topics were opposites and materials were the same.

It was mentioned that kids wouldn’t like this piece although Philan said that kids relate very well to abstract art.

STEFAN BONITZ

Chris liked the size of the proposed piece and thought it was right for the space. She believes there is enough color contrast for the site and that it will engage people, locals and tourists.

Philan was concerned about the metals he would use and the longevity of the materials. Different metals react differently to the elements and to adjacent metals. She felt it needed a third figure for proper scale and balance.

Kaaren thought most of the materials were steel and the artist said it would last. She likes the whimsical aspect of the art and although it is made of recycled objects, it is still “art”. She felt it was kid friendly and they will identify with the piece. It is the “smile piece”. It is the piece people will want to have their pictures taken with. She felt the scale was right for the area.

Noretta thought it would be a good idea to get rid of other metal pieces on Main Street prior to installation of this if it were the selected piece so that it would not be thought of as just another metal piece. She thought we could ask the artist to add a small, additional figure like maybe a dog. She thought it was a “fun, feel good” piece. She wanted the artist to find unusual materials for the composition.

Karen said this was her favorite. She liked the work and from the beginning of the presentation, she smiled. She felt Bonitz would be the best of the three artists to talk to a group and “sell” the concept. Likes the idea of an additional figure.

Sarah loved this one. She felt the “green component”, recycling, was educational and speaks to the fact that old-timers made do with what they had. She thought the scale was appropriate and that a small, impromptu group of musicians is historically accurate. She thought it was a feel-good piece and whimsical but not wacky. She thought we could push him to make this a truly stand out piece – incorporate all his design talents. She said that his web site gives details on maintenance of his pieces.

Mike liked this piece, echoing those things already said about the tradition of making do with what we had in the mountains. There had been comments from the advisory panel that this piece would be poking fun at hillbillies as though that were a negative. Mike felt it is not making fun but being fun. He thought the scale was perfect and that it is a piece the public can interact with and that the people are the additional element in the piece without having the artist add something. He felt that he could more easily defend this decision to the donors. He also felt that in our next projects we would avoid rusting steel as the main component.

VADIM BORA

Chris kept comparing this piece to the ones at the civic center in Asheville. It tried to look like bronze but since it wasn’t it does not appear well done. The scale is not good. It would look like a large bush.

Philan said he had the least votes from the advisory panel for “appropriate for Waynesville”. She was appalled with the presentation and his use of a pedestal that wasn’t even designed. He even offered to cover the pedestal with mulch.

Kaaren said this would be the “safest” piece. Many could relate but it is way too small for the space. She was concerned about maintenance and longevity of the piece as the material is not tested. She felt he misrepresented what we would be getting since the end piece could not interpret as presented.

Noretta felt it was too small and too ordinary.

Sarah said it was a classical design but showed the least imagination. It was a fake, bronze cliché.

Mike liked the piece if it could be in bronze but the scale was a deal breaker. He agreed there would be difficulties in translating his model to the materials he would use.

In a show-of-hands vote:	McDaniel	1
	Bonitz	7
	Bora	0

Sarah Kucharski moved that we select Stefan Bonitz to receive the commission for the inaugural piece of the Waynesville Public Arts Commission on the topic of Old Time Music. Kaaren Stoner seconded. Seven approved, one opposed, the motion carries.

Chris Sylvester moves that we adjourn, Sarah Kucharski seconds.
The meeting adjourned at 6:25PM.

Mike Gillespie, Chairman

Marilyn Sullivan, Secretary