

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
TOWN HALL
PUBLIC ART COMMISSION
5:30 PM, THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT: MIKE GILLESPIE, PHILAN MEDFORD, MARILYN SULLIVAN, CHRIS SYLVESTER, KAAREN STONER, STARR HOGAN, DAVID BLEVINS, MIEKO THOMSON, KAREN KAUFMAN

ALSO PRESENT: FRED BAKER

Chairman Kaaren Stoner called the meeting to order at 5:35 P.M.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 9 REGULAR MEETING. Starr Hogan moved that the minutes be accepted as read. Miekko Thomson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Miekko Thomson handed out an updated copy of the financial report. Discussion followed concerning the amount of money needed to fund the current project and whether or not that would deplete all our funds. We went through the numbers again and also talked about the differences in funds raised versus operational funds received from the town and how each can and should be spent. Fred Baker said we should spend the money as we feel it is needed and he felt that we had been quite prudent to this point and unless he saw otherwise, continue business as usual. Mike Gillespie moved that we accept the treasurer's report, Philan Medford seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

TASK FORCE REPORTS

ARTIST RELATIONS – Fred Baker can be with us only a short time so we moved this item up on the agenda. He wanted to talk about Wayne Trapp. He said it was Trapp's responsibility to pour the concrete base needed for his sculpture, that he will help but will not supply the concrete. Also, he needs Trapp to be here to stake out at the site where the sculpture will go. There is currently plant material that will need to be moved. Part of the artist's services is to site the piece.

Kaaren Stoner recently visited Trapp at his studio and mentioned the concrete pad was his responsibility. There have been several emails back and forth since and Kaaren feels Trapp is struggling with the technical aspects of the contract. He claims he did not read the contract carefully and even stated he was not sure he would have signed if he had. Kaaren assured him she would talk to Fred and ask for his recommendations and see if a commission member could act as liaison. Fred said there was a lot of information he needed like ~ how much the thing weighs, how deep will the concrete be, what kind of bolts would be used, etc.

We all agreed we were willing to work with Trapp but first and foremost he must come to the site and determine where the sculpture will be situated. Then, if he wants to hire someone to pour concrete or if he wants to use town labor and pay for supplies, all that can be negotiated but he needs to understand the scope of his responsibility for the installation. It was agreed that he should be asked to make an appearance soon and that once the visit is made, his second payment would be made.

We also determined another official visit to his studio was not necessary but that his visit here was required. We also concluded that a commission member acting as liaison was not needed but David Blevins offered to act as a representative for the commission when he makes his visit here.

Trapp also indicated we could move up the installation date but the commission agreed to stay with our original schedule.

PROJECTS – The discussion began concerning the renovation of the mini park. Fred Baker had been actively trying to get a donation for an “art fence” but couldn’t get it. At this point, the plan is to re-do the floor, move old, overgrown trees and install new plant material. There is a \$10,000 donation for making this happen. It is an individual donation and there is no money in the town’s budget for the park. If the donation is received by the end of the year, work will begin over the winter and the space would be available as early as spring or summer. Our current schedule calls for an installation of the GSMNP project in September 2010.

There was discussion about the plans and what other options there might be. Leveling the floor will require fencing along an 80 foot long wall and this is where the plan is to incorporate art. The entire space does not have to be an art piece but sections could be used. Fred said that leveling the floor and removing trees that have currently disturbed the existing floor, adding small tables and chairs, would create an “outdoor café” atmosphere to the space and make the space more usable.

There was discussion of potential cost, need for measurements and whether or not this is the avenue we want to pursue for this project. Mieke Thomson moved that we agree to pursue the use of some sort of railing at the mini park as the GSMNP project. Mike Gillespie seconded. The motion carried.

David Blevins said he would do some measuring of the area so we know exactly what we're dealing with. He will also check on code about drop off, etc.

Kaaren Stoner suggested we delay discussion of signage and plaques until the next meeting.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS – Chris Sylvester had copies of the contest entrants which we looked at briefly before the meeting. We talked about how this should be handled and agreed that all flag designs should be sent to Wayne Trapp. Chris will make copies of all designs and number them so that Trapp can easily refer to those numbers when telling us his choices. Starr Hogan plans to be in the Boone area next week and agreed to take the designs to the artist.

FUNDRAISING – Mike Gillespie referred to the report he submitted concerning a possible fundraising event that was discussed in our last meeting. Since that time, the task force met with the Gateway Club people and following further discussion, determined that making this a fundraiser might not be the way to go and we should just use this date and venue for the reception and invite dignitaries and donors.

Philan Medford said she had already “sold” several tickets for the original planned event. She liked the idea that this \$25 amount was reasonable and could include more people. She mentioned how much hard work went into the preparation for our first fundraiser which netted us about \$3700 whereas holding the event at the Gateway Club would produce \$2000 for very little work.

Again we talked about the difference in operational funds and funds raised. Ticket sales would be considered funds raised and go directly to the art piece. Kaaren Stoner said she thought someone considered selling tickets “tacky”; however, it was noted that all other entities in town trying to raise money sell tickets, i.e., Folkmoot. The actual dedication at the site would be open to anyone at no cost. We discussed what work might be required beyond selling tickets. There was the possibility of a band although background music can be provided by the club. Mike thought we could use the Folkmoot flags if we can find proper stands.

Mieko Thomson moved that we have a fundraising event and the dedication on November 20, 2009. Philan Medford seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

We determined that there should be a press release and possibly posters. Chris Sylvester and Starr Hogan agreed to work on this. There will be a limited number of tickets due to the size of the facility.

Part of the program will include Wayne Trapp speaking and this may include his power point presentation. The possibility of having folkmoot film playing continuously was suggested.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Kaaren Stoner referred to her report concerning task forces or an alternative of monthly topics. She said in her opinion the task forces have not performed as intended and asked the commission members to respond about whether or not to stay the same or make this change.

Starr Hogan said it was not clear to her what task forces were all about. She referred to some press releases that were created but never used. If task forces meet but have no power to do anything then what's the point? She wants to know who has the authority. It seems vague to her. Things are worked out at the task force level then come to the commission and nothing happens.

Discussion followed concerning how to make the process more efficient, whether or not the topics direction would create an executive director position for Kaaren and can we really expect people to volunteer when needed. This commission is severely "tied" to open meeting laws and trying to accomplish anything within the rules is very difficult. A task force can have no more than four commission members in attendance or it has to be termed a special meeting and notification must be made and agenda posted at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting. This makes scheduling difficult and obviously limits the number of people who can attend which in some cases is not in the best interest of what we are trying to accomplish. It was pointed out that we all need to get out of our "comfort zones" from time to time and do things that are required whether it's our "thing" or not. There is no other commission in the town like this one so we had to invent ourselves – and we're still a work in progress. We tend to micro-manage things since everyone wants to be involved in every aspect. A lot of energy is used but the results are not always indicative of that process.

David expressed concern about making sure all pieces are being done on time. With a task force there is an assigned person who chairs that area and brings to the table the information created. This does not guarantee that it will move forward, it's just part of the process.

At this point, we all pretty much know what the process entails so working with the topics approach rather than task forces might be a new, positive strategy and worth trying. We agreed that this would be our direction and we'll see how it works.

Kaaren Stoner then summed up a few items that will be covered in our next meeting:

Signage and plaques.

David will research fencing costs and this means "custom" work. He will also be doing the measuring and looking into code as stated earlier.

Mike, Chris and Mieko will work out the final details for the fundraiser.

Kaaren will talk to Wayne Trapp about scheduling his visit here to meet with Fred Baker

ADJOURNMENT

Karen Kaufman moves that we adjourn. Mieko Thomson 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, September 10, 2009.



Chairman, Kaaren Stoner



Secretary, Marilyn Sullivan