

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  
9:00 AM, SATURDAY MARCH 27, 2010  
TOWN HALL

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: KAREN KAUFMAN

ALSO PRESENT: The Advisory Panel: Henry Foy, Alison Melnikova, Myron Coulter Bo Prevost, Steve Woody, Bill Cole, Jane Cole, Kevin Kirkpatrick, Marilyn Friedkin, John Keith, Alderman Gary Caldwell, Holly Demuth, Elaine Stewart, Buffy Messer, Cliff Hannah, Kay Miller, Warren Gresham, William King, Helen King, Alderman Wells Greeley, Raymond Caldwell, Jackie Caldwell, George Ivey, Karen Hammett, Martin Carter, Ed Kelley, Jan Griffin, Don Norris, Cory Plott, Mandi Teague, Peter Sterling, Lorna Sterling, Courtney Boessel, Cliff VanDerVan, Faye Wagoner, Nancy Blevins

Kaaren Stoner opened the meeting at 9:00 by thanking the advisory panel for participating today in helping to select the artist for our Great Smoky Mountains National Park project. She then asked Philan Medford to say a few words about the recent passing of Linton Palmer.

Kaaren introduced Ben Kastner who will be the first presenter to the panel. Ben is from Wilmington. What Ben is proposing is a clean, flowing piece that contains abstract impressions of buildings, church steeples, streams and waterfall. There will also be representational trees as well as salamanders incorporated into the design. Ben spent a great deal of time describing a process for protecting the metal from maintenance requirements for an extremely long period of time. He is only one of three in the entire state of NC who do a process called metalizing which is the top of the line coating system. He has done work for the DOT that is expected to last 50 years without deterioration. What he proposed for our art piece would be substantially less mils of coating; however, with this process plus paint he expected the paint not to fade for 8 – 10 years and the metalized material under the paint kicks in for approximately 25 years.



Ben's piece showed great skill in working with metal and it was a very artistic design. Although he does not normally do this type of work, he was inspired to take on this project because of the creative aspect and he hoped that a completed work would open new doors in the future.

Following a brief break which included refreshments, Kaaren re-convened the meeting and introduced the second artist, Zack Noble.

Zack Noble is from Bakersville, NC. His proposal included 5 scene panels which would be interspersed between vertical picket rail of his design and fabrication. He had a sample of the picket rail portion for the panel to see and feel. Although the sample was 1/4" material, he felt that 3/8's inch would be more appropriate for this application. His panels consisted of a bear, mountains, ferns and a log cabin as well as an abstract waterfall. He wants to include something about the Cherokee but had not researched this aspect of the design. He leans heavily toward letting the piece rust rather than painting as this would require re-painting every 2 to 3 years. Rusting consisted of using oil and wax on the pieces initially and periodically doing this again. Based on the drawings Zack brought, several on the panel expressed concern about some pointed and even curled items that could be considered a safety hazard. Zack thought these could be framed in. He was asked about the connection to the town and someone suggested an outline of the town/steeple could be part of the mountain scene. Zack is apparently very open to suggestions about the artistic panels and willing to consider other ideas. He also referred to the budget constraints several times in regard to what he could produce and what the finish would be. He did point out that all the metal would have had a hammer to it so it does not look factory produced.

Following a second break, Kaaren introduced Dan Howachyn.

Dan Howachyn, Tekla and Dale McIntire of Black Mountain Iron Works presented the third and final proposal. They had an elaborate drawing of a time-line that included items about the park and Waynesville, including a representation of the original arch sign. Their design contained numerous elements which were a concern to some but it was explained that in the drawing everything is so compressed but that the actual work would be considerably more open. The design had an overall mountain feel in the flowing rail top. Their plan is to finish with paint and a "wash". The wash makes the paint color much more subtle. They thought the paint would last 4 – 5 years. They proposed that if we wanted the piece powder coated that we would come up with 50% of the cost. They offered to bring items for the auction for this purpose. Again, they were including a Cherokee element that had not been properly thought through, that is, it was an inaccurate representation. If this is to be included, proper research should be made. The overall design is very elaborate, many thought it too busy, but it certainly made the connection between Waynesville and the Park with easily recognizable elements.



Following these presentations, panel members were invited to stay and talk about what they had seen and express any opinions, concerns, etc.

It was pointed out that the #3 design with its many welded points would be "non-stop maintenance". Powder coating over bare metal won't last for more than 3 years. If everything is perfect, you might expect 15 years.

Several people mentioned the arch that was in the third design only as being important. There was talk about asking the other artists to incorporate this in their design. Most concluded that it would not be appropriate to ask an artist to compromise his design for this and that the arch could be handled separately as a different project at a different time.

It was pointed out also that two of the artists mentioned including something about the Cherokee but neither had researched this satisfactorily. There was discussion about the Cherokee and the connection to Waynesville and the park. If included, the artist should assure us it has been cleared with the Cherokee.

Further discussion of maintenance and comparisons of the three presentations continued. Number 1 would appear to be the least maintenance involved, followed by number 2 and then 3.

Some other comments that were made:

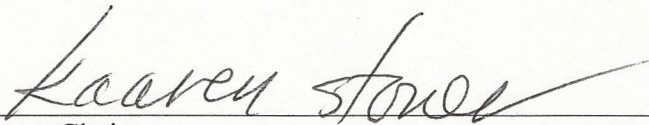
Number 1 doesn't detract from the natural beauty in the area. It is subtle but defined. Art that could inspire rather than panels that might educate.

Number 2 has talent but not an effective presentation. He seemed not to have thought it through very well.

Number 1 works well from both sides, the others appear to be oriented in one direction or the other.

Number 3 made the best connection and represented the theme clearly. It would have the most public appeal.

Discussion ended and the meeting adjourned at 12:55



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Kaaren Stoner, Chairman



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Marilyn Sullivan, Secretary