



REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 12, 2012
THURSDAY, 4 PM
TOWN HALL

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

The Waynesville Public Art Commission held a regular meeting on January 12, 2012. Members present: Chairman Jan Griffin, Treasurer Sarah Jane League, Charles Mills, Diana Laursen, David Blevins and Bill King. Absent were: Vice-Chairman Ed Kelley, Sylvia Everett and Ann Melton. Also present: Assistant Town Manager Alison Melnikova and Secretary Ginny Boyer.

The meeting was called to order at 4:04.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Griffin brought to Secretary Boyer's attention, prior to the meeting, that Sylvia Everett was in attendance at the December 8, 2012 meeting, but the minutes failed to show this. Secretary Boyer made that correction prior to the meeting. David Blevins made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2012; Bill King seconded and all were in favor. The minutes of the December 8, 2012 meeting were unanimously approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report

Sarah Jane League reported an account balance of \$26,599.73. Inflows for FY 2012 were \$7,350.00 with this figure including donations specifically for arch project (\$2,100.00). Outflows totaled \$2,690.79 with this figure including expenses for printing stationery and envelopes (\$145.00). Dave Blevins made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented; Diana Laursen seconded. All were in favor of approving the Treasurer's Report as presented.

Fundraising Letters for Arch Project—Jan Griffin

Chairman Griffin asked commission members to provide additional names and addresses of those they feel may want to contribute to the arch project. These can be given to Secretary Boyer so letters may be sent. The latest batch of fundraising letters included names and addresses from the list of Salamander Splash contributors. Chairman Griffin mentioned, depending on what is received from the letters already sent and the time frame, former Public Art Commission members may be included among those receiving arch project fundraising letters.

Arch Project Update

There was nothing to report for arch project.

Re-Siting “Celebrating Folkmoot”—David Blevins

David Blevins reported having been on Waynesville’s Board of Aldermen agenda of January 10 to present the commission’s proposal to move “Celebrating Folkmoot” from 16 South Main Street to 9 South Main Street. Prior to the meeting, Mayor Brown spoke with both David Blevins and Chairman Griffin, expressing what Mr. Blevins called “mild resistance” to the proposed location. The Mayor expressed concern over a modern sculpture being installed on site of an historic building. Instead of continuing with that evening’s presentation and “pushing the Board (*of Aldermen*) into a corner for an answer”, the presentation was not made. Mr. Blevins said that while the Mayor expressed mild resistance to the proposed location, he did not say the commission could not move the piece there.

Since then, there has been communication from not only Gavin Brown, but Town Manager Lee Galloway who suggested the intersection at Woolsey Heights, or five points, as it is sometimes called. While Mr. Blevins feels this would be an excellent location for a future piece of public art, he does not feel it should be the permanent location for Celebrating Folkmoot, a sculpture that he considers in need of protection. Mr. Blevins went on to say that communication from the Mayor and Manager of the Town concerning public art is a very positive thing.

Mr. Blevins suggested a permanent location outside the Martin Building on South Main Street. He distributed drawings to Public Art Commission members, in which the sculpture creates an entry point to the central business district from the South. According to the sketch, the urban park would: necessitate use of one parking space from the Baptist Church parking lot; be within one foot of the curb, thereby drawing pedestrians to the inside; allow plenty of room for pedestrians with strollers; allow for visibility from both directions on Main Street; allow street trees to remain where they are; allow for the memorial bench currently there to be utilized or swapped with one that is not a memorial; have a footing of 57” x 79” and allow for a 10 ft. x 12 ft. fence for the sculpture’s protection. Mr. Blevins wanted it to be clear: this is a suggestion, not a proposal.

Chairman Griffin asked members to consider this location as well as any other locations they want the commission to consider, writing down remarks and pros & cons while keeping in mind that public art needs to be pulled south, as the “beautiful bears” are the only public art on this end of Main Street.

Sarah Jane League agreed it is a good idea to bring the art farther south so it is not competing with other pieces. She also agreed five points would be a good location for a future piece, but not Celebrating Folkmoot, considering traffic could be a danger to it.

Town Manager Alison Melnikova mentioned the Commission is not under any pressure and has time to consider sites for the sculpture’s placement.

Mr. Blevins mentioned Mr. Ed Kelley being a great help to the commission. Mr. Kelley is in the process of moving his business and this is surely a trying time for him.

Other Business

Assistant Town Manager Alison Melnikova mentioned that she and Chairman Griffin would need to work on the **budget proposal** for funding, so that it may be brought before the Commission.

Chairman Griffin mentioned Bryson City's recent resistance to the proposed arch's wording "**Gateway to the Smokies**" as detailed in Smoky Mountain News. After much discussion among members, it was decided that the commission proceed as planned with the current wording of the proposed arch.

Diana Laursen asked, as a representative of the Hazelwood merchants, when would be a good time to bring up the desire for **public art in Hazelwood**. Ms. Laursen said she is frequently asked by merchants if Hazelwood is part of Waynesville and she feels public art would be a great way to demonstrate this (*Hazelwood's inclusion*). Ms. Laursen would like to relay to merchants that the Public Art Commission is including them in their consideration of future public art. She told the commission how happy the merchants were with the sign on Hazelwood Avenue that attracts South Main Street traffic to Hazelwood shops.

Chairman Griffin said it may be beneficial for the Commission to have Ms. Melnikova take members out in the Town van to view possible locations for future public art.

Adjournment

With no further business, Chairman Griffin adjourned the meeting of the Waynesville Public Art Commission at 5 pm.

Secretary, Ginny Boyer

Chairman, Jan Griffin