

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
January 10, 2013
4:00 p.m.
Town Hall



The mission of the Waynesville 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 10, 2013. Members present were: Chairman Jan Griffin, Vice-Chairman Ed Kelley, Treasurer Sarah Jane League, Sylvia Everett, Diana Laursen, Bill King, and Dave Blevins. Absent: Ann Melton, Charles Mills.

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the December 13, 2012 meeting were unavailable at the time of the meeting, and no action was taken.

Wildflower of the Smokies Submission Review

It was decided that the Commission would move the review of the submissions for the latest project to the beginning of the agenda. The members reviewed the guidelines that the artists were given in the Call, and in particular the images created by Ed Kelley of the site that were made available to the artists. Under the schedule previously adopted by the WPAC, the submissions were to be reviewed by the WPAC and three finalists may be selected. The finalists will each be required to submit detailed drawings and/or models of the proposed artwork as part of the presentation to the Community Advisory Panel on March 16th. The artists selected as finalists are not required to continue to work on the proposal reviewed today, but the design from the Community Advisory Panel will be incorporated into the final contract with the selected artist.

The WPAC also has the right to refuse any or all submissions, to refuse any finalist, to waive informalities in proposals or procedures, or to withhold the award of a commission should it be determined that submissions are not adequate. This may be done at any point in the process.

The commission received five responses to the *Call for Artists*, and Chairman Jan Griffin said these would be reviewed in alphabetical order, and that at the first review there should be no discussion about the proposal submitted, to allow all the members time to make notes for discussion. Submissions were received from the following artists:

1. Bruce Brynildsen, Jr.

This proposal appeared to require a lot of work, and the color would come from the plants in the planters. This would mean the Town would assume upkeep forever. There was discussion as to what the winter appearance of this piece may be.

2. Grace Cathey

Dave Blevins said his wife realized that Great Smokies National Park is the only place where you'll find these particular flowers. The members said that any information like that fact about any selected piece should be included on the plaque that is installed.

Ed Kelley pointed out that automotive paint lasts a long time, so maintenance shouldn't be an issue. For most of the commission members the flowers were too realistic and not dynamic enough. Bill King asked if they were in a box, and it appeared from the artist's explanation that they are. Members discussed the frame this creates around the flowers, with several not excited by the boxes. Diana said the lettering distracted from the flowers, and there was discussion about asking the artist if this could be separated from the flowers. Not every member agreed with this point however, and no conclusion was reached.

3. John Clark

Sylvia said she liked this submission, but that it seemed to be more about the seasons rather than the flowers. Bill King said that it may be too sophisticated for the space but that in a more formal setting it might work. Ed Kelly said this would be a piece that would draw you into the park. Other members liked the concept of the piece, but not the final appearance. Ed Kelly said he wished he'd accented the mountains on the top more and that with this piece and the railing there would be parallel lines on both sides of the park. Dave Blevins said the guy is a genius in his other work, and this piece would be at home in a college arboretum but it may not communicate what the WPAC wants to communicate. Jan Griffin said she'd be interested in seeing what he may have to present in person.

Sylvia asked if the Commission could provide feedback to the artist if he was chosen as a finalist, and Alison Melnikova said that would be acceptable for all of the finalists.

4. Lynn Shepherd (Fondaw on resume submitted; Shepherd on image list and materials)

The Commission members had a difficult time assessing the proposal without a color sketch. The commission was split on the impressions they had from the artist's previous works as submitted with the proposal. There was discussion about the written description of the proposal, with several members saying they liked the catalog portion of the piece. Bill King said he couldn't tell if the wildflowers or the trunks and stems in the front would dominate the piece. Dave pointed out that the artist's last piece of public art was in 1989.

5. Stone Cloud Studios (Todd Frahm and Lara Nguyen)

Ed Kelley said the dandelion is not a native flower, and read a statement from the website of Audubon Wildflowers. Sylvia said they could name other blowing plants that might be

acceptable, such as a butterfly weed. Sarah Jane said the other issue is the lack of color. Sylvia said the only color is the corten steel. Dave said that when you look at the artist's body of work it is very strong, and we could see if the artist would be willing to add color to this concept. Bill pointed out they appear to have recently moved to Western North Carolina and may appreciate some feedback about the local history.

There was a brief discussion on whether the commission could invite four finalists rather than three to give presentations. It was decided that because they have already told the artists there would be three, not four, and that the budget for the process has already been decided upon that they would stick with three artists, not four. Grace Cathey, John Clark, and Stone Cloud Studios were selected as the finalists by consensus.

The *Call* stated that the finalists would be notified by Thursday, January 17th. It was decided by consensus that Chairman Griffin could notify the finalists via a phone call, and that a letter would be sent with the details of the discussion to the artists.

Chairman Griffin reminded the members that they need to finalize the list of people to invite to participate in the Community Advisory Panel on March 16, 2013. Vice-Chairman Kelley asked if she could send out via email the list of names that members have already submitted. Dave Blevins suggested that Ted Dake of Moto-Fab be added to any list, as he created the arch sign that was installed in 2012.

Treasurer's Report – Sarah Jane League

No expenditures were reported for December, and the only revenue was \$280 from cookbook sales. Chairman Griffin reported that there are only 40 cookbooks left for sale.

Hazelwood Outreach – Merchants and community awareness meeting

Hazelwood is the area that the Commission previously selected for the first of a planned series of community awareness meetings, and also the site for the next public art piece. Diana Laursen, as owner of Hazelwood Soap Company, has been talking with the Hazelwood merchants about the process. Kevin Duckett the owner of Smoky Mountain Roasters is every excited, especially since a potential topic for the art piece would be the Plott Hound. He has been working with the group that is planning the PlottFest in Maggie Valley. Diana pointed out that Hazelwood is a working community and that merchants would have to plan their day around any meeting.

Chairman Griffin suggested that Diana ask Kevin and others to provide the WPAC with a list of dates and times that may work for any meeting. Alison Melnikova suggested that they could use the conference room at the Hazelwood Office since it is a public meeting. Diana said that would be much easier than asking any of the merchants to host a meeting in their own shop.

Bill King asked what the goal of this meeting would be. Ed Kelley said it was a time to explain the public art process and get their feedback on potential sites and topics. Sarah Jane League said the WPAC has been focused on downtown and that there's a lot of opportunity throughout

Town. Diana said that her shop has been in Hazelwood for seven years and that no one has ever come down to say that they're interested in seeing how they operate and making them feel like part of Waynesville. This is the first time any group has approached the merchants to talk to them.

Adjournment

With no further business, Vice-Chairman Ed Kelley made a motion that the meeting adjourn. This was seconded by Bill King, and passed unanimously at 5:16 p.m.

Alison Melnikova
Assistant Town Manager
Acting Secretary

Jan Griffin
Chairman