

Regular Meeting
Town of Waynesville
Public Art Commission
Town Hall—9 South Main Street
March 14, 2013



Present:

Chairman Jan Griffin
Vice-Chairman Ed Kelley
Treasurer Sarah Jane League
Sylvia Everett
Charles Mills
Ann Melton
Bill King
David Blevins
Diana Laursen

Also present:

Town Manager Assistant Alison Melnikova
Secretary Ginny Boyer

Approval of Minutes: David Blevins moved to accept the special meeting minutes of February 19, 2013 as presented; Sarah Jane League seconded. All were in favor.

Treasurer's Report: Sarah Jane League said the Treasurer's Report is deferred. She will send it out electronically upon availability.

Community Awareness Meeting—Diana Laursen

Diana Laursen reported a Community Awareness meeting in Hazelwood Thursday, March 28th at 11:00 am. It will be at Kevin Duckett's coffee shop, Smoky Mountain Roasters after the regular meeting for PlottFest.

David Blevins asked about the lease with the Forgas, has the Town resolved any lease issues. Assistant Town Manager Melnikova reported the Town is still working with them.

Advisory Panel of March 9th, 2013—Wildflowers of the Smokies

Alison Melnikova provided commission members with the power point presentations from three finalists of the Wildflowers of the Smokies project: Stone Cloud Studios (Todd Frahm and Laura Nguyen), John Clark and Grace Cathey (Sylvia Everett and Ann Melton were not able to attend the advisory panel meeting power point presentations and this would be their first viewing). Members then discussed each artist's power point presentation. Bill King was impressed with the effort taken to make the mockups. David Blevins mentioned when the Public Art Commission begins looking for freestanding art, Todd Frahm with Stone Cloud Studios should be considered; Mr. Blevins said he "can see him making a ten foot plot hound". Mr. Blevins also mentioned having taken a recent photograph of the wall where the sculpture will be

placed, from the courthouse lawn, without the trees in front, and said it will “be an absolute billboard”.

Treasurer Sarah Jane League then reported on the artists’ ratings from the results of the advisory panel. Ms. League assigned a numeric value to the advisory panel answers so that answers would “have weight to them” and percentages calculated. On the first question Grace Cathey’s presentation rated 94% and above 90% for the first four questions:

- 1) How well did the artists interpret the Great Smoky Mountain/Waynesville connection?
- 2) How well did the artist explain the interpretation, use of materials, inspiration, etc.?
- 3) In other words, are you “sold” on the concept and proposed wall piece?
- 4) Do you find this artwork suitable for Waynesville’s culture/ambience?
- 5) How do you believe the general public will react to this work of art?
- 6) Would you be proud to have this artwork in your town?
- 7) Do you see any safety issues or maintenance issues with this artwork?

Scores totals were as follows: Grace Cathey—96%; John Clark—67% and Todd Frahm—65%. The advisory commission preferred Grace Cathey’s presentation by a wide margin. Twenty-three people provided answers. Bill King thanked Sarah Jane for time spent on the ratings and also said he would be interested in the comments advisory members provided. Sarah Jane said comments supported the ratings.

Diana Laursen asked if the wall would be painted. Ms. Melnikova reported the lower maintenance option will be sandblasting. David Blevins asked if the Town would be willing to install the piece, to which Ms. Melnikova answered yes.

Bill King moved to accept Grace Cathey’s piece as proposed; Ed Kelley seconded and all approved. The next step will be presentation to the Board of Aldermen on March 26th, 2013. It will be on the agenda as recommended for award.

Members discussed the possibility of having the prototypes, or mockups as part of the fundraising efforts. Chairman Griffin mentioned asking Ms. Cathey to donate to the fundraiser or put a price on it.

Sarah Jane said it was a very good process, have the artists been thanked for their time and effort. Chairman Griffin said she has by phone and email, but they will also get a letter. Chairman Griffin thanked Alison Melnikova who “does more than anyone realizes”. Commissioners were thanked for their help with the advisory panel.

Sylvia Everett mentioned being disappointed she could not attend Saturday’s advisory panel and hopes that in the future, once a time line is established, it could remain as it was decided upon. Chairman Griffin explained the date was changed to accommodate Grace Cathey, but for next time it could be included in the call that the date and time are firm and will not be changed for any reason. Sarah Jane said it may be helpful to ask the artist, once the call is sent out, to respond within 48 hours so the date can be confirmed.

David Blevins mentioned having been involved with all the public art pieces and it is obvious as the commission builds its body of work, the portfolio is attracting quality and artists who understand what we expect. We are trying to get the best art for our community and the body of work we are putting together is getting strong. It is a wonderful legacy for our community. The Commission continues to put its shoulder to the wheel and get the work done. Mr. Blevins mentioned good leadership all the way through—Chairman Jan Griffin and former Chairman Mike Gillespie.

Bill King agreed this is a tremendous accomplishment for Waynesville. Mr. King mentioned when he left Raleigh, “our state *capitol*, they were trying to get public art but all they were having was controversy”.

Fundraising, 2013

The Public Art Commission plans to have both a silent and live auction on June 27th. The tent(s), beer and wine licensing, and whether or not a chairperson will be designated for the event continues to be in question.

Adjournment

With no other business, the Waynesville Public Art Commission adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

Ginny Boyer, Secretary

Jan Griffin, Chairman