

REGULAR MEETING
TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE
PUBLIC ART COMMISSION
5:30 P.M. THURSDAY, JULY 12, 2007

MEMBERS PRESENT: MIKE GILLESPIE, PHILAN MEDFORD, MARILYN SULLIVAN, PETER STERLING, KAAREN STONER, NICOLE WILHELM, CHRIS SYLVESTER

MEMBERS ABSENT: NORETTA TAYLOR, SARAH KUCHARSKI

The mission of the Waynesville Public Art Commission is to engage the community so as to enrich the public realm through original public art that celebrates Waynesville's unique historic, cultural, natural and human resources.

Chairman Mike Gillespie called the meeting to order at 5:45 P.M.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF JUNE 7, 2007

Chris Sylvester moves that the minutes be approved as read. Nicole Wilhelm seconds. The minutes were unanimously approved.

TASK FORCES

Projects – Marilyn Sullivan distributes a handout explaining that this is a first attempt to put in place guidelines and procedures as we had discussed in June. The cover sheet explains the attachments and that the overall concept is based on the responsibilities as given in Ord. 4-06 which created this Commission.

Peter Sterling reports on the recent meeting with Joe Sam Queen. He had the strong impression that JSQ wants to honor Old Time Music and talked extensively about the street music that preceded the Smoky Mount Folk Festival. He felt that JSQ did not particularly want SMFF to be the focal point of our inaugural project. He appeared to be enthusiastic about our efforts, stated that he felt it should have a prominent site in town and wanted the art to be representational rather than abstract. Other attendees at this meeting were Mike Gillespie, Chris Sylvester and Philan Medford. After further discussion it was agreed that Peter's impression was accurate. There followed discussion on the possibilities of bronze statues that would be representational; however, the cost of these items puts such a work beyond the scope of our intended budget.

Mike Gillespie talked about the art trail recently started in Brevard by a local gallery owner. The pieces are with a native wildlife theme, are produced by local artists and placed in sites approved or leased by the Town. He suggested that we might want to take a trip to Brevard for a fact-finding mission. Still considering other options, we discussed the pre-fab. works that have been used in various communities, painted by artists than auctioned, i.e. Hendersonville's bears. We concluded that there are many options available and that a fully representational bronze may be desirable to some but that we want to stay open and receptive to other possibilities.

Artist Relations - Kaaren Stoner referred us to notes she had previously sent via email concerning a discussion with Ron Fondaw, an artist with considerable experience in the process we are just entering. He suggested that we use an RFQ (Request for

Qualifications) instead of an RFP (Request for Proposal) thereby speeding up the initial process in our call to artists. In this type of request we are asking the artist to submit photos and explanations of their work for our consideration. From this we could select three artists whom we would ask to submit drawings and details of how they would interpret our theme. A stipend would be given to each of these artists to prepare what we need. This would enable us to have at least a drawing to use in advertising this project to the public and pursuing contributions and funding.

We then discussed the application process and the need for a focal point for submission of applications as well as just general calls and questions about WPAC and/or the project. Although the Haywood County Arts Council has agreed to assist, everyone in attendance thought it would be better to keep this within the Town of Waynesville and therefore have the Downtown Waynesville Association handle calls, etc. Buffy Messer has been approached and agreed to assist.

Philan Medford made the motion:

“To have DWA be the organization that will field calls and accept applications for the call to artists for WPAC.”

Chris Sylvester seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

It was also agreed that there should be a “script” developed that could be used by DWA as well as HCAC when calls are received.

Further discussion followed regarding the Smoky Mountain Folk Festival and whether or not it was still appropriate to have this as the focal point for our first art object. It was mentioned that SMFF is a for-profit organization and there was concern about a public perception that could be negative as a result. After considerable discussion:

Nicole Wilhelm moved

“That we put this item on hold until other things are resolved.”

Philan Medford seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

As noted last month, we are due to elect new officers at this meeting.

Mike Gillespie stated that Noretta Taylor had made a motion at the last meeting that we keep the current slate of officers and all present agreed with voting to take place at this meeting. Mike called for a vote. The motion was not approved.

Following further discussion, a new slate of officers was proposed:

Mike Gillespie – Chairman

Noretta Taylor – Vice Chairman

Marilyn Sullivan – Secretary

Kaaren Stoner – Treasurer

Philan Medford moved that we accept this new slate of officers for the coming year.

Nicole Wilhelm seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Chris Sylvester motions, Kaaren Stoner seconds. Unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:00P.M.

Chairman, Mike Gillespie

Marilyn Sullivan, Acting Secretary