

**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  
7:00 PM, JANUARY 29, 2008  
WAYNESVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

MEMBERS PRESENT: MIKE GILLESPIE, MARILYN SULLIVAN, CHRIS SYLVESTER, NORETTA TAYLOR, PHILAN MEDFORD, KAAREN STONER, SARAH KUCHARSKI

MEMBERS ABSENT: KAREN KAUFMAN

ALSO PRESENT: RON SULLIVAN, BOB TAYLOR, JANE STONER, DAVID ERICKSON

The meeting began at 6:05 PM.

Mike Gillespie opened the meeting and described the power-point presentation that we would review as the one planned for January 31, 2008 to be given to town representatives. He was looking for comments, questions, etc. concerning the material covered.

The purpose of this presentation will be to enlighten leaders of the community boards, commissions, etc. about WPAC and our objectives.

The presentation opens with the question "What is public art?" Also, what do we want to see in Waynesville? Mike showed examples of art in various locations emphasizing that art was not strictly a "statue" but could take many forms from sculpture of various sizes and material to artful benches in a park-like setting as well as murals, mosaic designs, water fountains and walkways.

Public art is a reflection of our history. It can be permanent or temporary or it can take the form of a series like that of the bears in Hendersonville. Art can interact as in the Chicago example where laser photos of Chicagoans were projected on large glass panels incorporated into a fountain and pool area. Another example was bronze dance-step patterns in a sidewalk area.

Another benefit discussed was that of economics and Mike reviewed statistics regarding cultural travel and the impact these travelers make to the local economy. In addition to the

increase in foot traffic, it has been shown that cultural travelers spend more money, stay longer and add vitality to public areas. These travelers have more disposable income for cultural travel than the general travelers.

There is a segment on functional art with examples and discussion of how art can be incorporated into most any building project by having an artist involved in the planning without impacting the budget negatively. For example, rather than standard concrete benches have an artist creates benches that are functional as well as pleasing to the eye. The same can be said for many aspects of a building project from railings and barriers to water fountains and seating areas.

Another statistic proves that art attracts pedestrian traffic and that people attract more people.

Mike discussed the history of public art which began with Streetscapes then an art committee was created to determine how best to pursue art in our community and in 2006 the Art Commission was created. The Town currently owns only one piece of art -- Grace Cathey's "Keep in Mind, it's Feeding Time" which is located at Town Hall. Other pieces of art around town are on loan and are for sale. WPAC would benefit from the sale of these items.

Funding for projects will be through public and private sources. The Town has currently provided \$9000 which will be used for initial start-up expenses, brochures, fund raisers, etc. The Town will also provide site preparation, installation, insurance, maintenance and administrative support of any project. The public art fund falls under the Town's tax deductible status so individual contributors are advised to consult a tax professional concerning their status.

The inaugural project is called "Old Time Music". The site is at Main and Miller streets. Artists for the project will be selected from the Blue Ridge Heritage area -- 25 counties in Western North Carolina. The commission offered to the selected artist is \$20,000.

A selection panel made up of Waynesville citizens will be created to review the three finalist's presentations and make their opinions known. This group will be chosen from a variety of backgrounds to insure a diverse and representative panel.

Mike concluded his remarks with a slide showing "our needs" -- to find some "angels" within the community. These "angels" would be people or businesses willing to commit possibly \$1000/year to this and future public art projects.

David Erickson pointed out that the Streetscapes transition to an art committee was due to an inability to find art that was relevant to "our place". They did not do commissions but pursued existing art.

Everyone agreed that the graphics and presentation were very good, our mission was clear and our objectives well presented. To avoid any confusion regarding finances, it was decided to change two of the slides to indicate the amount of dollars for the artist's commission and another that told the amount appropriated by the Town for our initial operating expenses. It was also agreed that an additional slide should be made that speaks to the April 3 presentation by Jeffrey York that will be open to the general public and held at the

Waynesville Recreation Center. This will be an opportunity for the public to express opinions about public art.

Bob Taylor suggested that we follow up our written invitations with phone calls. Sarah Kucharski will send each member the names they should call tomorrow.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10PM.

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Mike Gillespie, Chairman

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Marilyn Sullivan, Secretary