

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
5:30 PM MAY 22, 2008
TOWN HALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: MIKE GILLESPIE, MARILYN SULLIVAN, CHRIS SYLVESTER, PHILAN MEDFORD, KAAREN STONER

MEMBERS ABSENT: NORETTA TAYLOR, SARAH KUCHARSKI, KAREN KAUFMAN

ALSO PRESENT: FRED BAKER, STEFAN BONITZ

The meeting began at 5:35 PM.

The purpose of this meeting was to review the artist's contract with Stefan Bonitz and make any changes or clarifications where needed. Also, the Commission wanted to discuss several aspects of the piece and the installation.

We began with a discussion of the piece itself, how the foundation would be handled and how it would be anchored. Stefan described other works he is developing and the type of concrete pads developed for these pieces. The size of the piece determines the size of the pad and he felt that this one would require at least 4 inches thick to anchor. Fred Baker asked that Stefan develop a foundation sketch and discuss it with him. There was discussion of code requirements versus what the art piece would actually require. Fred said this would be worked out. He also said the Town had an auger that could be used to drill holes to fill with concrete.

The foundation of the piece was then discussed as an appearance item. Stefan proposed a retaining wall with a "Lincoln Log" effect. It was suggested that river rock be used and Stefan is amenable to this although there was some concern about stability. There was discussion of using fencing around a portion of the piece, making an "entrance" to the area. It was determined that fencing was not necessary or appropriate and that a defined "entrance" to the piece would be created with landscaping.

It was mentioned that feedback from the Advisory Panel questionnaires stated concern about the detail of a Bonitz piece. Stefan referenced other pieces he has done indicating a significant amount of detail. He stated that he would not skimp on the piece in any way as this is a reflection on him and he wants it to show well for him. We want as much creativity and freedom of expression as possible. He is not tied to the specific drawing presented. His pieces are as sculpture not theme park figures.

Philan Medford wanted a say on the type of materials used. Stefan assured the commission that he uses mild metals and never cast iron which can become very brittle. Anything decorative on the piece would be at least ¼ inch thick with structural pieces substantially more.

Several people suggested that the work needs a third figure. Stefan said that if we wanted to commission more, that would be ok with him but that the design is to the budget presented. Everyone concluded that additional figures were not necessary.

There was discussion of a plaque or some identifying piece. Mike Gillespie said that we need to come up with something that will be consistent with any future art work.

Next we discussed details of the contract beginning with the time frame for completion. Stefan felt that the piece could be completed sooner than what the contract states. The option to change dates in the contract has already been discussed with the Town Manager and the Town Attorney and there is flexibility here for change. They asked that Stefan write a letter to that effect and changes can be made.

It was determined that July 19 – approximately - , “on or about” would be the date for inspection of the work to that point. The piece would be ready for final installation September 10. It will be in place and landscaped in time for the celebration on October 3 during Art After Dark. Stefan agreed to attend the unveiling on October 3. Fred Baker will participate in the inspection.

Several articles in the contract were then discussed and clarified. Article 5 concerning lien waivers. Fred said that this is a standard release. He said there is a form or Stefan could simply write a letter stating that anyone involved with the creation of this piece has been paid.

Article 10 regarding maintenance. Stefan felt it was vague and was concerned that the Town expected him to do “cleaning” of the piece. Fred assured him that what the Town wanted was information from him about how the piece should be maintained, not that the artist was expected to actually do the maintenance. It was determined that we could eliminate any reference to maintenance from Article 10.

Article 12 concerns insurance and Stefan needs to check with his insurance provider to be certain he is covered.

Article 13 concerns indemnity and Stefan was concerned that it was laying too much on him in terms of accidents. Fred said he felt it holds the Town harmless for “negligent behavior” on the part of the artist and that the Town Attorney could give a better explanation.

Article 14, copyright, part 2. Stefan questioned if a postcard of the piece would classify as a “reproduction of the piece”. It was pointed out that it also stated that he simply needed to get the Town’s permission before using the piece for any “commercial” purposes.

In conclusion, Mike will make the few changes in the contract in order to have clean copies, have the Town Manager’s signature on Friday morning and mail two copies to Stefan. Stefan will be at the Fundraiser Thursday, May 29, and the contracts will be exchanged for his first check. Kaaren Stoner had forwarded the request for the check to Fred and Eddie Caldwell on May 20. Fred has approved and the check should be in process.

Kaaren also requested that Stefan bring a small sculpture to the Fundraiser if he could, so folks could see a finished piece. He will make an effort to bring something.

Other business. Chris Sylvester reported that there was discussion that morning at the DWA Board meeting that Jonathan Yates, Town Horticulturist, is working on a design for the mini-park at Depot Street. She will serve on that committee in order to be a liaison with the Town. She thought this would be the perfect place for us to celebrate “Water”.

Additional time was spent discussing final details for the fundraiser preparations.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Mike Gillespie, Chairman

Marilyn Sullivan, Secretary