

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.

REGULAR MEETING
TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE
TOWN HALL
PUBLIC ART COMMISSION
5:30 PM, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2008

MEMBERS PRESENT: MIKE GILLESPIE, PHILAN MEDFORD, MARILYN SULLIVAN, DAVID BLEVINS, CHRIS SYLVESTER, KAAREN STONER, MIEKO THOMSON, STARR HOGAN, KAREN KAUFMAN

Chairman Mike Gillespie called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

Mike welcomed our newest commission members, Mieko Thomson and Starr Hogan.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 13 REGULAR MEETING.
David Blevins moves that the minutes be accepted as read. Chris Sylvester seconds. The motion passes unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer's report was submitted by Kaaren Stoner, copies were sent to all commission members. The only change is a \$350 additional donation and one bill payment of \$29. Mike Gillespie asked for a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Philan Medford made the motion, Marilyn Sullivan seconded. The motion passes unanimously.

TASK FORCE REPORTS

Projects - No report at this time.

Artist Relations – Kaaren Stoner reported that the paver project went back to the students with further clarification and instruction to see if the designs could be improved. The subsequent changes to the designs and concept statements are most impressive. The artist relations task force met earlier this week to review all the drawings and offered their recommendation to the commission. The commission wanted to see all the drawings and review designs and concepts. Following this review, all members voted for their favorites and it happened that these were the recommended drawings. Kaaren Stoner made a motion that the designs submitted by Patrick Burke, Courtney Boessel and Kelsey Jaynes be selected as the finalists in the paver competition. Mieko Thomson seconds. The motion carries unanimously.

Kaaren said that the task force would be meeting with the art teacher, Donna Rhodes and the students tomorrow to discuss details and time line for the presentation of these works to a selection committee.

Mike Gillespie reviewed the schedule for the paver competition process. The architects are due in Waynesville on January 14 so we need to get on their calendar and work out other details for the selection panel.

Kaaren Stoner next asked the commission to approve the Call for Artists and RFQ for the Folkmoot project. She basically used the information from our previous call with specific changes related to the new project. Although this document had been sent to all commission members earlier in the week, there was lengthy discussion about wording and details of the information. There was a question about the scope of the call, limiting it to the 25 counties of the Blue Ridge Heritage area as before. Several members expressed their belief that keeping it to this area made the piece that much more acceptable to the majority of the community. It was pointed out that the committee that existed prior to our commission clearly emphasized the use of local artists. Although we had an email from Fred Baker expressing his disappointment in the limited call, within the time frame we have it is unrealistic to extend the call even if we wanted to. In the future, if it is determined that this should change, much more work will be required considerably in advance to make this happen. At this point, we believe that our unique collection should be created by mountain artists, that it should reflect our community and our environment.

There was discussion concerning the date of January 15 for issuing the call. Again, this is a matter of timing and from past experience and artist input; it was felt that the time frame was workable. To move the date up would require every commission member be willing to offer assistance with press releases, etc. Also, it needs to be timed to the updating of the web site. We then discussed what was involved in updating the web site. Kaaren will submit her information to Phyllis McClure and Chris Sylvester will work up the site plan that will also be posted.

Starr Hogan had a question about our selection committee. It was explained that we put together an advisory panel made up of a cross section of the community, including arts professionals, who review the presentations of the selected finalists and complete information sheets that we then review for determining the selected artist. Starr talked about having more community input, like having a voting process. Again, it was felt that due to the time constraints, setting up such a process is just not feasible and the logistics of making it happen and compensating the artists just didn't seem reasonable. The possibility of having the finalist presentations as an "open" session in a larger facility to accommodate opening this to the public was discussed.

Kaaren Stoner moved that the Call For Artists with the changes discussed be approved by the commission. Starr Hogan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Kaaren Stoner moved that the Application Process – Request for Qualifications be accepted by the commission with noted changes. Marilyn Sullivan seconded. The motion carries unanimously.

Community Relations – Chris Sylvester referred to the emails from Jeff Reece concerning lighting for the Old Time Music sculpture. Two options were proposed. Although Philan Medford was extremely concerned about damage being done to trees if Option B. were the answer, Mike wanted to keep all options open at this time. He will meet with Jeff at the site on Monday to offer another possibility for the safe, non-damaging lighting arrangement.

Chris also showed the postcard she has been working on that can be used as part of a fundraising effort. She asked for input from the commission on design and content.

Fundraising – David Blevins expressed concern about the mechanism used for funding our projects and went on to explain that having an endowment fund established under a community foundation would preclude any questions about tax-deductible status of contributions. The way we work now, that status must be determined by the individual donor based on his/her tax situation, how they file, etc. It is not a straight forward yes or no and David feels this could cause us to miss out on potential donations. He believes an endowment would make it easier to approach donors and receive larger amounts of funding. There were many questions about how this is established, how the funds can be allocated from the endowment, are we limiting the dollars we can use, etc. David will check further into the details and report at another meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Kaaren Stoner will follow up with Steebo for photographs of Old Time Music.

NEW BUSINESS

Mike asked for nominations for Vice Chairman of the Commission, a position left vacant by Noretta Taylor's resignation. There was discussion but no vote at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

Philan Medford moves that we adjourn. Kaaren Stoner seconds. The motion is unanimously approved. Meeting adjourns at 7:35 PM.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting will be held at 5:30 PM, Thursday, January 8, 2009.

Chairman, Mike Gillespie

Secretary, Marilyn Sullivan