

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 APRIL 30, 2009
TOWN HALL

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

ALSO PRESENT: ALISON MELNIKOVA

Mike Gillespie called the meeting to order at 5:30. The purpose of the meeting is to select our winning artist from the three finalists who presented to the advisory panel on April 25. The selected artist will then be presented to the Town Board for their approval.

The models of each artist's concept were on display and Mike suggested we just go around the room for comments one artist at a time followed by any other discussion and a vote.

The first artist to be reviewed was Grace Cathey.

Marilyn thought it was very impressive until she saw the next two.

Chris liked her original sketch better and thought the whole piece was whap sided.

Philan felt this was totally different from anything Grace had done in the past.

Kaaren was disappointed because she liked the first sketch and even subsequent sketches she saw better than this final product. She also felt that there was too much talk about maintenance and this detracted from the concept.

Mieko said the height of the piece bothered her. She felt it appeared too fragile and needed to be taller.

Starr said it probably represents Folkmoot more literally than the others but that the size did not work for the site. Maybe it could be used at the Folkmoot Center.

David felt the 6 foot diameter would be a dwarf in the space. He also expressed concern about the automotive paint finish. The side in the sunlight will change quickly.

Karen said she was a big fan of Grace's work and had seen this piece earlier and loved it. However, compared to the others it just doesn't come out ahead.

Alison felt it would be lost in the space and that it was just too literal an interpretation.

The second artist discussed was Harry McDaniel.

Marilyn liked this one but felt size was again a concern.

Chris likes this piece ~ the movement and patterns particularly. She wondered if we might be able to pick the colors used and expressed a bit of concern about the similarity to pieces already installed in Florida.

Philan expressed in great detail how this piece was her favorite. She liked the color, texture, small footprint, graceful interpretation, etc. In her mind's eye this was Folkmoot. There was a balance between abstraction and representation. It really feeds her soul. This would represent Folkmoot forever ~ even if the event did not continue.

Kaaren said she thought this was a fabulous piece ~ scale, color, research on patterns. She wondered if we could ask that the bases be higher. She expressed how impressed she was with all the artists and the difficulty they faced in this task since there is so much going on with the new building, i.e., glass, stone, brick in competition with the piece and the fact that the building is still a work in progress made this a difficult design task. She felt McDaniel's piece would hold up against all that busy background.

Mieko liked it but didn't feel it had a great deal of appeal. Also, the scale didn't work for her.

Starr said she was really torn about this one. Loved the intricate cut outs and symbolism. It does give movement through shapes. Her concerns are the colors and the "sailboat" tie. (It was mentioned at the panel session that it looked like a regatta. Once said, this came to mind with everyone).

David said it reminds him of sculptures he's seen in his travels and therefore seems fairly common. There is nothing unique about the piece.

Karen said it wasn't her favorite but she could live with it. It is so like the Florida sculpture it bothered her but she did appreciate the research involved.

Alison said she liked it a lot until the final piece. Once she overheard the sailboat comment, that's all she sees.

Mike said that in an informal poll, the Folkmoot crowd likes this one best. They like the patterns and that it's going toward abstract but still has a representational aspect. It reminds him of the twirling skirts. He felt that McDaniel would work with us.

The final artist was Wayne Trapp

Marilyn said this was an exciting piece, impressive, and the proper size for the site. She liked the kinetic element and felt the entire piece would be a real attention getter. She also liked the use of air space over the sidewalk. Her favorite.

Chris thought the piece had an organic feel but had concerns about patterns on flags. She didn't really feel the flags worked in the design and thought it would be too much for the site. Philan was concerned about the huge concrete base this would require and thought this was very reminiscent of other work by the artist. She did like the idea of community involvement in flag design.

Kaaren was excited at first. Liked the use of air space. Thought Wayne was very generous in offering the flag design as a community project. She received feedback from folks who don't like the red. Ribbon and poles just don't work together. Really doesn't work but could live with it.

Mieko felt this was a well built, sturdy piece. She likes the balance. Thought this was the most eye catching. She also felt we were getting a really quality piece for our money.

Starr said this was her favorite. Its whimsical feel ties in with dancers. The bright red didn't work for her. Appreciates the invitation for community involvement. Wondered if it would be too abstract for the community ~ are they ready? Felt the scale was much better for the space.

David felt that having an open, airy piece worked much better with the building. He really enjoyed the stilt dancers and the flag poles remind him of that. It just really works for him. It's a little bit "in your face" and he felt this element would bring people back. It's very visible without being a barrier, it just works.

Karen said it has a major WOW factor. Really likes the actual movement and wondered if flags could be larger. She thought red was great. Felt we should think about what Folkmoot people want.

Alison said this was her favorite. She thought the scale was appropriate. Red would not be her pick but it was not a show stopper.

Mike said that Harry's is a safer piece; Wayne's is a WOW piece. The artist won't be around after installation, we are the ones who have to justify our decision. The flags reminded him of whirligigs and he thought kids and adults would be engaged by this. He felt it worked well with the building. The art stands on its own and you have a mental disconnect with the building. Bill Hollingsed liked this piece best and could see people enjoying it. Chris said that if we could get Wayne for a fundraiser, he would really sell the concept.

Following additional general discussion a vote was taken.

Grace Cathey	0
Harry McDaniel	2
Wayne Trapp	6

Kaaren Stoner moved we adjourn. Karen Kaufman seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:40.

Mike Gillespie, Chairman

Marilyn Sullivan, Secretary