

Town of Waynesville, NC
Public Art Commission – Regular Meeting Minutes
Town Hall, 9 South Main Street, Waynesville, NC 28786
Date: September 12, 2013



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

In attendance:

Chairman Jan Griffin (last meeting as Chairman)
Vice-Chairman Ann Melton (will serve as Chairman beginning October, 2013)
Diana Laursen
Charles Mills
Sarah Jane League
Micah McClure
Nick DePaolo

Also in attendance:

Town Manager Assistant Alison Melnikova
Secretary Ginny Boyer

Absent:

David Blevins
Bill King

Minutes of the August 8, 2013 Regular Meeting

Charles Mills made a motion to accept the minutes of the August 8, 2013 regular meeting as presented; this was seconded by Micah McClure. All were in favor.

Treasurer’s Report

Vice-Chairman Ann Melton made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report as presented; this was seconded by Diana Laursen. All were in favor.

Appointments/welcome Dominick DePaolo

Chairman Griffin welcomed Dominick “Nick” DePaolo to the Public Art Commission, adding that Mr. Depaolo was “born and raised here”, “a great artist” and a “super addition” to the commission.

Wildflowers of the Smokies art dedication report

Chairman Griffin reported the Wildflowers of the Smokies event was great with an excellent turn out. Ann Melton said there were several people there to see Grace Cathey and her work. Micah

McClure said the wall pieces are a nice addition, bringing the park's railing, arch and now wall pieces, together. Alison Melnikova said it is beautiful. She also said Grace Cathey herself was amazing. Once Ms. Cathey saw the wall would not support her art (the second wall was not in good condition), she sat down with Public Works Director Fred Baker and others in Public Works and agreed to the alternative post-mounting which does nothing to take away from the art. Ann Melton considers it an improvement, pulling the pieces out from the wall. Mr. McClure also mentioned how the pieces are more permanent with this installation, attached to the town park and not to a wall that is not owned by the town.

Jan Griffin said she cannot praise Streets and Sanitation Superintendent Daryl Hannah and his crew enough—they worked so hard. Someone had to be sent to Murphy to pick up posts. Horticulturist Jonathan Yates stayed later than he should have working on landscaping the park. Everyone helped make it a lovely evening. Ms. Griffin said “we are so lucky to have them and thank them very much”.

Chairman Griffin reported Alderman Wells Greeley donated \$300 at the event which has now been deposited. Treasurer Sarah Jane League said that “put us very close to paying for the piece”. Jan Griffin said she is so proud of Grace Cathey who wanted the piece to be special and representative of her connection to her hometown. Ms. Griffin said the flowers at the event were great and thanked Diana Laursen for those.

Signage for Grace Cathey's Wildflowers of the Smokies

Chairman Griffin said that David Blevins had mentioned at the event he was disappointed the commission didn't have signage for Grace's piece. He volunteered to help with that project. Signage for the arch is also something the commission should discuss. Email any thoughts to Ann Melton who will be chairman next month. Currently there is a sign for the railing project, Salamander Splash which was done by A to Z signs. David Blevins' first thought was how the wildflowers impact the Great Smoky Mountains as well as Waynesville. We can ask Grace for input since she researched the flowers with the rangers. She would be a good source and happy to help with wording for the sign. Ms. Melnikova mentioned as part of Grace Cathey's contract, she is supposed to provide an artist's statement which may be helpful.

Election of Vice-Chairman (*Ann Melton was Vice-Chairman but currently serves as Chairman*)

With Ann Melton moving to Chairman, the Vice-Chairman position is now vacant. **Jan Griffin made a motion to nominate Diana Laursen as Vice-Chairman; Sarah Jane League seconded and all were in favor.**

Other Business: thanks from Jan Griffin; the next public art project

Chairman Griffin thanked the commission and said she truly appreciates the accomplishments it has achieved. “This is what happens when you work well as a group to help me and help the town; it shows that nine people can get together, get work done and have fun”. Ms. Griffin thanked Alison Melnikova, Ginny Boyer, Brittany Buchanan and Phyllis McClure: “I have

worked for senators and congressmen and know I can be a real pest but they made my job easier”.

Nick DePaolo asked if there has been any discussion on what the next project might be. Jan Griffin said it has not been decided, Ms. Melton will address that. There have been meetings with Kevin Duckett who Diana Laursen calls the “trailblazer in Hazelwood”. Mr. Duckett, owner of Smoky Mountain Roasters, was “born and raised here and has a lot of interest and passion”. Ann Melton said Kevin Duckett would love to see a Plott Hound in Hazelwood although questions remain about sites for public art in Hazelwood.

Diana Laursen mentioned the importance of tying Hazelwood in with Waynesville through public art and it is a good time for Nick DePaolo to be coming in as a new member. Mr. DePaolo said he grew up here and his mother was born on Smathers Street. Mr. DePaolo thanked Ann Melton for her service as Vice-chairman adding “She will be an amazing Chairman. She is a great lady, I am already proud of her”.

Jan Griffin thanked Mayor Gavin Brown and the Aldermen for being such supportive backers of the Public Art Commission.

Adjourn

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

Ginny Boyer, Secretary

Jan Griffin, Chairman