

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 12, 2013
THURSDAY, 4 PM
TOWN HALL**



Mission statement: 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.

The Waynesville Public Art Commission held a regular meeting on Thursday, December 12, 2013. Chairman Melton called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm.

Members present:

Chairman Ann Melton
Jan Griffin
Charles Mills
Micah McClure
David Blevins
Dominick DePaolo

Also present:

Town Manager Marcy Onieal
Intern Andrew Bowen
Secretary Ginny Boyer

Absent:

Sarah Jane League
Diana Laursen
Bill King

1. Minutes from the November 14th, 2013 meeting

Jan Griffin made a motion to accept the minutes from the November 14th meeting which was seconded by Charles Mills. All were in favor and the minutes were accepted as presented.

2. Treasurer's Report – Sarah Jane League

Micah McClure made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented which was seconded by Charles Mills. All were in favor.

3. Signage for Mini-park

Due to Bill King's absence, discussion of the mini-park's signage will be concluded at the January meeting. Chairman Melton will call Bill King regarding signage for the mini-park.

4. Website

Micah McClure reported he spoke with Town Manager Marcy Onieal recently about the possibility of the Public Art Commission having a website. According to Ms. Onieal, the Town of Waynesville has a non-profit status and therefore the Public Art Commission would fall under that category. The Public Art Commission could be hosted by the Town website and its services. Ms. Onieal agreed to talk to the Town's website developers, VC3, about our options.

To create its own website, someone would have to design it and this could be costly. Ms. Onieal reported the town recently spent \$24,000 to have its website completely redesigned to create a unified look. At no charge, a separate page may be added to the current Town of Waynesville website specifically for the Waynesville Public Art Commission which could be customized with photos in a standard template. Eventually, there will be pages for all boards and commissions.

David Blevins was concerned that a search engine may not find the Public Art Commission buried in the town's website. Ms. Onieal said she is not an expert on maximizing hits, but the commission could consider buying its own domain name. Both the fire and police departments have separate domain names but "seamlessly they come to the town's website". Micah McClure felt there would be more control with the commission having its own domain name and to have a page within the Town's website would be the most cost efficient.

Micah McClure and Charles Mills volunteered to help with the public art commission's web presence efforts. Ms. Onieal said if "volunteers want to manage and control the page, it is very intuitive".

5. Newsletter

Jan Griffin said the Haywood County Arts Council sends a newsletter out once a month and she feels the Public Art Commission would benefit from this although members agreed a quarterly newsletter would be better than a monthly one. Ms. Griffin said the commission would be very wise in keeping everyone updated and soliciting help using donor, artist and contributors lists.

Chairman Melton agreed and said the commission is highly thought of, but those in the community need to know we are doing so much other than trying to get their money.

Micah McClure agreed this would be another method of communication which would be informative while building bonds between the commission and those who have interest. Mr. McClure said a current email list is a direct link to people who care about public art. There are several email lists the commission has used, including one from the latest auction but they are not being utilized.

Charles Mills mentioned the services Jump Mail, MailChimp and Constant Contact which will allow you to send emails up to a certain number without charge (usually, contacts over 2,000 will require payment).

Members discussed the newsletter should be a standard template with some consistency including what the commission has achieved and what is to come. Jan Griffin mentioned when the commission has its installation, we want a crowd there. Micah McClure said the newsletter could serve as 1,000 direct invitations. He agreed to look into what services are available and Nick DePaolo mentioned members submitting ideas.

6. Bill Eleazer piece, donation from Biltmore Square Mall

Andrew Bowen displayed David Blevins' photographs of the Eleazer piece on the big screen for members while Town Manager Onieal reported that the donation of the piece came to fruition last Friday after emails from Sandra Hayes and Alderman Gary Caldwell were received. A call from Biltmore Square Mall verified that owners want to donate the piece to the Town of Waynesville, but the town must remove the piece by January 15th. The mall's developers commissioned several artists for display around the mall but *Catching Tadpoles* is unique in that sculptor Bill Eleazer was a longtime art teacher at Tuscola who bred many artists from his program. Manager Onieal added that Mr. Eleazer did not ever appreciate the setting for his work which is currently surrounded by Italian marble in the middle of a shopping mall. A more rustic environment would befit this piece.

David Blevins, having recently visited and photographed *Chasing Tadpoles*, reported to the commission it consists of three pieces with the tallest piece, the girl, four feet high. Mr. Blevins said all three children would fit in a six foot square. Sandra Hayes opened the door to this find and subsequently Mr. Eleazer is very excited about Waynesville's acquiring the piece.

Chasing Tadpoles is cast bronze, especially suitable for outdoor use as it was originally designed for a naturalistic small rock & water setting. Twelve-inch steel pins secure the pieces to rock. Mr. Blevins mentioned that Mr. Eleazer is "taking ownership of the pieces" and wants to help find a way to safely remove the pieces. Although he will not technically help in the removal, he is interested in its resiting.

Manager Onieal reported the Board of Aldermen has accepted the piece, the town has committed to Sharon Morgan with Biltmore Square Mall that we are prepared to move and store the piece at the Municipal Building. Finding a new location is now the question, one that may have more cast bronze that mimics water. A meeting with the Public Works Department is needed.

Alderman Gary Caldwell is excited about Frog Level Historic District as its new location but the Town does not own property in Frog Level. The Town once had a fountain but there were numerous issues with an outdoor fountain. Some possibilities for resiting include: the greenway that runs along Richland Creek in Frog Level (there are plans for more development but it is not happening soon); the yard in front of the new salon Mia which is owned by Jim Pierce would be a visible place for the resiting; the landscaped island is too small if the Frog Level sign remained, and with this being Southern Railroad property, they may tell us to move it. Manager Onieal

said she has not abandoned Frog Level but we need to figure out how it may work there. There are plenty of spaces at the Recreation Center where it can be installed.

David Blevins would like to have Eleazer's thoughts on resiting, to see what his original vision was and he agrees with Alderman Caldwell that a less formal setting like Frog Level is a natural fit. Mr. Blevins is confident we can make it work, especially since Mr. Eleazer is willing to get involved, living in Westminster, South Carolina.

Chairman Melton said she "would love to see it in Frog Level". Manager Onieal said as long as the artist and you all are comfortable with no water, we can place it near Norfolk Southern until they say to move it. Jan Griffin mentioned landscaping around it before your eye gets to the railroad track.

Manager Onieal said the Town is prepared to give Biltmore Square Mall a tax receipt for the donation, but they have simply requested a plaque stating "donated by Biltmore Square Mall".

Commissioners thanked Manager Onieal and David Blevins. Mr. Blevins added that this will show the State and Haywood County that "we aren't just about ourselves; we take donated pieces, an important step for the commission".

Micah McClure who was once a student of Mr. Eleazer's said he has "cranked out so many professional artists from his class". Mr. Blevins said the history surrounding the piece is that Mr. Eleazer, a graduate from Western Carolina University, heard that there was a company building a shopping center which put out a call for artists. Mr. Eleazer sculpted Chasing Tadpoles, his first ever three-dimensional piece and first-ever bronze piece.

As for the placement of the piece, Ginny Boyer will look up in the Frog Level history books the origination of the name "Frog Level" to get a better idea of where to place the sculpture. David Blevins would like to figure out how to get moving water with the piece. "Water could be just a small pool and disappear under a basin" he said. Mr. Blevins was very pleased to hear from Manager Onieal and glad to see the town "went after it" to acquire Chasing Tadpoles.

Micah McClure would like to sit in and watch if Mr. Eleazer is at the removal of the sculpture. Mr. Blevins said once we can see below water, it should be obvious how to detach the pieces. Chairman Melton is very excited and said this project is "fabulous". Mr. Blevins said the efforts of the commission are starting to get traction.

7. Rented Pieces

Benches with notables sitting on them are a recurring topic among commissioners, first shown to the commission by photographs Mr. Blevins took in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Benches such as these create photographic opportunities and are very popular. Chairman Melton would like to see some in Frog Level to entice people to visit there.

8. Fundraising Ideas/
9. Next Public Art Piece/
10. Location of Next Public Art Piece

Chairman Melton asked if the commission is committed to having the next piece be a Plott Hound, to which David Blevins replied Chasing Tadpoles has to be first due to its timing sensitivity. Jan Griffin agreed the next public art piece should be put on hold. Micah McClure said he likes the idea of a bench with a Plott Hound standing up on it as it serves two purposes: a bench is utilitarian and it is a way to get Hazelwood merchants involved. David Blevins agreed. Chairman Melton said she hears from commissioners the next piece could incorporate a Plott Hound and be placed in Hazelwood so that it would be in the foreground of the Plott Balsams but the commission must settle Chasing Tadpoles first.

11. Other Business

The Town of Waynesville's Christmas party will not include boards and commissions this year only current employees. A spring get-together is to be planned for boards and commissions. Commissioners "voted" to "have ours at the Gateway Club".

Micha McClure mentioned the Smoky Mountain News open house Saturday night.

12. Adjourn

Jan Griffin made a motion to adjourn the meeting to which Charles Mills seconded. All were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 5:09.

Secretary Ginny Boyer

Chairman Ann Melton