

WAYNESVILLE PUBLIC ART  
COMMISSION MINUTES  
MARCH 13, 2014  
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.**

Those present:

Chairman Ann Melton  
Jan Griffin  
David Blevins  
Charles Mills  
Micah McClure  
Bill King

Also present:

Horticulturist Jonathan Yates  
Management Assistant Andrew Bowen  
Secretary Ginny Boyer (left at 5 pm)

Absent:

Sarah Jane League  
Diana Laursen  
Nick DePaolo

1. Minutes from the January 9, 2014 regular meeting (February's meeting was canceled due to weather)

**Jan Griffin made a motion to accept the minutes of the January 9<sup>th</sup> meeting; Charles Mills seconded and all were in favor.**

2. Treasurer's Report, January

Chairman Melton asked if there were any corrections to the January Treasurer's report. The report was sent via email to all members. There was no income or expenses for the month of January. The account balance is \$25,504.12 as of January 2014. Our income FY 14 to date is \$11,384.49 and expenses totaled \$11,115.88.

**Jan Griffin made a motion to approve the treasurer's report as presented; Charles Mills seconded and all were in favor.**

### 3. Ideas to Consider for Siting of Bill Eleazer's *Chasing Tadpoles*—Horticulturist Jonathan Yates

Horticulturist Jonathan Yates was asked to come before the commission to present several suitable sites for the installation of *Chasing Tadpoles*, along with a few sites for the commission to keep in mind for future installations (such as *La Femme* and any others). Mr. Yates is well familiar with the characteristics of the town as he is “in the field” every day and offered the following sites to consider:

- Bed alongside what is currently Gatekeepers, 4 North Main Street. Benefits to this site include visibility and ample space—25 by 7 feet. One drawback to this site is there are several art pieces in close proximity.
- Frog Level at the corner of Commerce and Depot, where there is currently a large Frog Level sign in a landscaped area with large river rock. Benefits to this site include the ample space—17½ by 20 feet, and mostly, the piece's relevance to the area. One drawback to this site is it is currently owned by Norfolk Southern (the Town of Waynesville leases it).

There was much discussion about this particular choice. Mr. Yates explained that although water features are problematic in the landscape, with proper placement of river rock and selective plant materials, a dry “creek bed” could be installed. Berm/grade changes along with repositioning of the sign may be necessitated.

Bill King was concerned that at this site the sculptures would be in harm's way (a vehicle once damaged the bed and sign). Chairman Melton suggested the river rock be placed to serve not only to create an aesthetic “creek bed” but also to protect the pieces.

Micah McClure was in agreement after having seen in Asheville water “features” requiring little to no maintenance and said that the commission, in choosing this location with a dry creek bed, would be meeting two important criteria: creating an atmosphere befitting the piece and having a water feature without having to deal with issues of maintenance.

Mr. McClure went on to say if a walking trail is desired, if there is a way to connect the dots for pedestrians, Frog Level is connectable.

Chairman Melton agreed and went on to mention the commission could consider a walking tour booklet much like the Historic Preservation Commission's (*Historic Waynesville, a self-guided tour*) in which public art is highlighted.

Jan Griffin said if this site is chosen the shopkeepers in Frog Level will be “thrilled.” Their concern is that they are being left out and the installation of this piece will pull everything together.

Bill King mentioned the need to look outside the Main Street area as it has several pieces along its route. The commission has “pretty much filled it up.”

- Vance Street Park although more suitable for a large installation has ample space for future pieces. There may be less visibility from vehicular and pedestrian traffic in some areas of the park and a wise choice must be made (Mr. Yates mentioned a carved bear had to be removed from the creek, for instance, because “he couldn’t swim”).
- Presbyterian Church at the corner of Main and Walnut Streets, across from Badcock Furniture—a small bulbout bed with two lacebark elms is there currently and spaced too closely. Once a tree is removed, there will be space for public art.
- Waynesville’s Fire Department on North Main Street has a large grassed area if there is an opportunity to place a very large piece of public art.
- Carolyn’s Point has a lot of vehicular traffic and some foot traffic. There was once a fountain there but now there is a Japanese Maple that was donated by a master gardener. Mr. Yates expressed he is “very tied to” the Japanese Maple tree and discourages moving it from that location.
- Hazelwood was also discussed although there is not a lot of space to deal with as the large parking area is one the town leases. Mr. Yates mentioned a large bed (25 by 6 feet approximately) which currently has pear trees in it, trees that he would be willing to sacrifice. Chairman Melton said the merchants would like to see public art across from the coffee shop, in the foreground of the Plott Balsams.
- South Main Street near Wal-Mart was also discussed. Cedarwood Development dedicated two specific areas for public art, one in an underutilized area beside the parking lot/outparcel of shops (Verizon, Sally Beauty Supply) and the other near the intersection at Hardee’s (Dayco Drive/South Main Street). These areas would be more conducive to large public art.

Chairman Melton asked, since everyone seemed to be in agreement, what the next steps would be in achieving *Chasing Tadpoles* installation in Frog Level National Historic District. The following items were discussed:

- Schedule a planning session with sculptor Bill Eleazer so that everyone involved will understand the artist’s original intentions on placement and site design
- Have Jonathan Yates be prepared to move forward with site preparation
- Consider moving the current Frog Level sign elsewhere in the landscaped bed (or somewhere else altogether) and consider softening the metal box with plant materials or paint
- Mr. Yates asked commissioners to not be held back by the consideration of having to purchase stone---the maintenance of the bed in Frog Level has historically been maintained by the Town
- Bill King said it needs to be understood the commission is not hiring Mr. Eleazer and it is ultimately the Public Art Commission’s decision where and how to place the sculpture.

**Micah McClure made a motion to install Bill Eleazer's *Chasing Tadpoles* which was donated to the Town of Waynesville by Biltmore Square Mall, in Frog Level National Historic District. Jan Griffin seconded and all were in favor.**

4. Comments on the storage of *Chasing Tadpoles* (and *La Femme*)—David Blevins

*Chasing Tadpoles* is currently in “the bowels of the old town hall” and *La Femme* which weighs six tons with her base (marble and granite) is safely crated and stored at Waynesville’s Public Works Department. Chairman Melton recently sent a thank you to Sharon Morgan, Manager of Biltmore Square Mall and Sandra Hayes, who first read in the newspaper about the pieces to be donated and thought of Waynesville as recipient.

*(Secretary Ginny Boyer excused herself after item 4. No motions were made for the remainder of the meeting)*

5. Current Mission Statement

Jan Griffin asked the commission to consider changing the current mission statement to be more inclusive. Micah McClure disagreed and said that inclusiveness was an inherent assumption. Chairman Melton asked Ms. Griffin to bring written examples of mission statement revisions before the board for consideration. No action was taken.

6. Public Art Commission website update—Charles Mills

Commissioners discussed establishing domain names that will direct the public to the Town’s website. No action was taken.

7. Public Art Commission Newsletter Update—Micah McClure

Micah McClure provided members with his vision of what a newsletter might look like with the help of Mail Chimp’s template (headline, main story, mission statement). It is hoped that on the Town of Waynesville website, the public will have an opportunity to sign up for the Public Art Commission newsletter. As for content of the newsletter, it was not specified who would be responsible or how often it would be updated. No action was taken.

8. Elections of Officers: In accordance with the Ordinance No. 4-06, Creation of Waynesville Public Art Commission, which states, “The commission shall select annually from among its members a chair and vice-chair”, you are hereby given notice that annual elections will be held at the May 8<sup>th</sup> regular meeting.

Commissioners have been given notice elections are upcoming. No action was taken.

9. Signage for Gateway to the Smokies and Wildflowers of the Smokies—Charles Mills

The signs for both the Gateway to the Smokies arch and Wildflowers of the Smokies art piece are paid for and installed.

10. Preacher Man, a 6-ft walnut sculpture by William I. Millar

David Blevins read a letter written by Kathryn Millar Hodge, daughter of Mr. William Millar, “long-time lawyer and resident of Waynesville” in which she requested the commission consider raising funds to bronze *Preacher Man*, a walnut carved statue of Mr. Millar’s and find suitable placement. The Commission is honored it was selected to consider this undertaking but has very much work to do (two sculptures currently in storage) and cannot commit to further projects at this time. Chairman Melton will write a letter thanking the Millars for considering Waynesville’s Public Art Commission for this project.

11. Adjourn

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:47 pm.

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Ginny Boyer, Secretary

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Ann Melton, Chairman