

WAYNESVILLE PUBLIC ART
COMMISSION MINUTES
APRIL 10, 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
Vice-Chairman Diana Laursen
Treasurer Sarah Jane League
Nick DePaolo
David Blevins
Charles Mills
Micah McClure
Bill King

Also present:

Management Assistant Andrew Bowen
Secretary Ginny Boyer

Absent:

Jan Griffin

1. Minutes from the March 13, 2014 regular meeting (February's meeting was canceled due to weather)

Sarah Jane League made a motion to accept the minutes of the March 13th meeting; Bill King seconded and all were in favor.

2. Treasurer's Report

Sarah Jane League reported a balance of \$24,665.12. Income for the year: \$11,384.49. Expenses for the year: \$11,954.88. Expenses for March: \$839 to A to Z signs.

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

3. Mission Statement Revisions—Jan Griffin

Chairman Melton asked that this item be moved to the May agenda due to Jan Griffin's absence.

4. Chasing Tadpoles Report—David Blevins

Andrew Bowen addressed the commission about artist Bell Eleazer’s disapproval of the Frog Level Historic District site chosen for *Chasing Tadpoles* over concerns of aesthetics and theft. The Board of Aldermen is aware of the artist’s concerns but continues to support the Public Art Commission’s decision. Mr. Bowen went on to say the piece is intended for beautification and will ultimately improve the district.

Mr. Bowen said Tuscola Masonry Instructor Eric Sollie wishes to partner with the town on this project; the Town would be responsible for materials only, with students providing the labor. Mr. Sollie has drawn up the blueprint so the students may establish the footing and hardscaping. He plans to enlist the help of Mr. Tim Burress, a master mason in Bethel. The result will be an aesthetically pleasing wall and the students will have gained experience. Once the footing and hardscaping is set, Daryl Hannah and Jonathan Yates will complete the placement of the pieces, the naturalistic rock work and landscaping.

David Blevins asked that the current rendition be sent to the artist and he will make contact with him. Nick Depaolo offered to color the rendition before having it sent.

The Town currently leases the property from Norfolk Southern and may have to resite *Chasing Tadpoles* if Norfolk Southern has other plans for the site.

David Blevins felt that the Frog Level community (specifically mentioned was Open Door and Frog Level Brewing) should be involved for the purpose of getting the community to “buy in” and reiterate Frog Level is part of downtown Waynesville. Commissioners discussed having meetings for Open Door patrons and for merchants at large and an event at Frog Level Brewing.

One of the feet of the sculptures is in need of welding repair. It was decided that this would be done “in house” by Town employees if at all possible, with the second choice being to enlist the help of Ted Duke who made the arch replica *Gateway to the Smokies*.

For celebration and dedication purposes, and depending on the progress of site preparation, an event will be scheduled during either the August or September Art After Dark to ensure there will be no conflicts with Downtown Waynesville Association or Chamber of Commerce events. Mr. Bowen offered to draw up a formal schedule for commissioners.

5. Other Business:

- Newsletter—Micah McClure

Micah McClure reported he sent out a working draft public art commission newsletter through Mail Chimp to ten recipients for a test run. Those recipients who opened the working draft were pleased with the effort. Commissioners then discussed: content; soliciting suggestions; sponsorship; the ability to subscribe to the newsletter through the Town of Waynesville’s

website; how best to target recipients (a spreadsheet of contacts can be imported) and frequency of publication (quarterly).

Sarah Jane League offered to write the content of the first newsletter with a focus on the Public Art Commission's latest installation *Chasing Tadpoles*.

Andrew Bowen verified that the Town's website can be utilized for PAC calendars, events, pictures and subscribing to the Mail Chimp newsletter. There are currently several pictures related to *Chasing Tadpoles* now on the Town's website as well as a gallery of public art (go to *About Waynesville* then *Arts & Leisure* or *Town Art Walk*).

- Walking tour guide

Chairman Melton asked commissioners if they wanted to consider a walking tour brochure for public art much like the Historic Preservation Commission's brochure of historic structures, *Historic Waynesville, a self-guided tour*. After some discussion, it was agreed that after the installation of *Chasing Tadpoles*, this topic would be addressed.

- *La Femme*—Ann Melton

Chairman Melton brought to commission's attention a new recommendation for placement of *La Femme*: the landscaped bed alongside Dr. Phil Medford's old practice on Church Street which Philan Medford currently maintains. David Blevins, while in agreement of how worthy a family the Medfords are, said the commission may be "asking for headaches" if it begins to honor or commemorate specific townspeople with public art.

The Shelton House/HART was mentioned as a potential site although Ms. League does not feel a "theatrical piece" is befitting the historic grounds of the Shelton House and if placed on Shelton House/HART grounds, a more suitable location would be closer to the theater. Some commissioners expressed the need to keep public art visible, closer to the street and part of a larger "art walk".

6. Adjourn

With no further business, Chairman Melton moved to adjourn which was seconded by Sarah Jane League. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 4:54.

Ginny Boyer, Secretary

Ann Melton, Chairman