

Duluth Public Arts Commission

MINUTES for Monday, October 19th, 2020

4:30pm-6:00pm

Call Meeting to Order

Meeting started at 4:36pm

Additions to the Agenda

No additions to the agenda at this time.

ROLL CALL

Present: Bret Amundson, Paula Gudmundson, Amanda McElray Hunter, Sandy Johnson, Melissa La Tour, Mary Tennis, Christina Woods

Absent: Jodi Broadwell, Philip Gilpin, Noah Hobbs

Guest: Moira Villiard

Staff: Eleanor Bacso, Steven Robertson

Approval of the minutes

The September meeting minutes were approved with minor corrections. Woods moves to approve the minutes as amended with a second by Johnson.

Amundson	Gudmundson	McElray Hunter	Johnson	La Tour	Tennis	Woods
Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea

NEW BUSINESS

Chief Buffalo Mural Project Proposal-Moria Villard

Villard gave an overview of the Chief Buffalo Project proposal and stated that she is hopeful that she can complete her project by next summer. In addition to the mural, there would be plaques for historical information and context. Villiard has received \$15,000 in grants for the mural proposal but is still waiting for a final approval from Parks. Villiard wants this area to be an accessible space that everyone can see the significance of the Chief Buffalo’s story. Villiard is working with Chief Buffalo’s descendants on what they would like to see in the imagery and also shared that the mural would have both abstract and realistic representation. Villiard shared that the Indigenous commission is planning on taking on maintenance for the mural. Villiard is waiting for the final response from Parks; Bacso will reconnect Villiard and Parks to continue their conversation. Johnson asked about examples of proposed images for the mural. Villiard noted that it would be in a similar style to the work that is already existing in Gichi-ode’ Akiing. Woods asked about community engagement for the mural. Villiard said that there will be a community input phase. Bacso shared that after the project proposal is approved by Parks, it will then move to DPAC for approval.

Commissioners requested to make time at an upcoming meeting to review the project proposal process to see how it can be improved. Gudmundson said that it would be important to adjust timelines and manage expectations so artists feel that they can propose a project and bring it into fruition. Gudmundson stated that the process is not straightforward and accessible and that artists are experiencing barriers. Commissioners discussed creating a check-list or a flow chart for the public art process. Tennis suggested a subcommittee to evaluate the project proposal process and would work to get it set-up. Villiard suggested asking artists who have been through the project proposal in the past and what could be improved. Bacso will send an email out to artists who have been through the project proposal process for feedback.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Maintenance- Jodi Broadwell

Broadwell was not present. Woods noted the subcommittee has not met yet.

Leif Erikson Plaque-Mary Tennis

Tennis has reached out to two different plaque makers and is waiting to hear back.

Airport Update- Jodi Broadwell

Broadwell was not present to give an update.

Superior Street Art Walk- Sandy Johnson

Johnson shared that the subcommittee is planning on moving forward with the light projections and neighborhood banners. In regards to the light projections, McElray Hunter has an initial list of artists that the subcommittee can reach out to. Woods shared that she has a list of artists that she can share as well. Woods offered to send the RFQ on behalf of DPAC and the Duluth Art Institute. Gudmundson suggests to cast as wide of a net as possible for proposals and suggested requesting other art organizations to share the RFQ. Next, Johnson shared how many banner posts are available which is a total of 17. The newest reconstructed section of Superior Street will not have any light posts that can have banners attached. Johnson shared the initial subcommittee's idea to have each neighborhood submit ideas for their banners. However, it was discussed that having contacts for each community may be challenging since so many community centers have been closed. Johnson then shared the second idea of engaging with the school district to work with art teachers to potentially include this project into their curriculum that would have students working together to create neighborhood banners. McElray Hunter spoke with an art teacher and indicated that there was some interest in it. The art teachers across the school district meet regularly and thus could potentially work together on this project. Woods stated that she liked the public process for developing the new City of Duluth flag. Woods suggested if it is a City wide project that the schools could decide if they want to sign on; Woods feels that it would be more of an inclusive project by doing it this way. McElray Hunter stated that process had been mentioned by the subcommittee as well. She also shared that the subcommittee had discussed the idea of having an artist engage with each community and designing neighborhood banners from input received. Woods liked this idea of selecting artists and they could do community engagement by gathering stories and rendering them into artistic expressions. Gudmundson said she would second what Christina said to have artists collect stories and bring the stories to life. Johnson thanked everyone

for their input to be further discussed by the subcommittee. She also announced that she will be stepping off leading this subcommittee for now to provide more time to handle some health and personal family matters. Hobbs had volunteered to replace Johnson as the lead of this subcommittee.

African Heritage Visibility Mural- Eleanor Bacso

Bacso noted the subcommittee has not met yet and asked for commissioners to fill out the Doodle Poll.

Public Comment

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:46p.m.