

**Duluth Public Arts Commission**

**MINUTES for Monday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**4:30pm-6:00pm**

**Call Meeting to Order**

President Tennis called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m.

**Additions to the Agenda**

Johnson suggested the following additions to the agenda: the installation timeframe for Tia Keobounpheng’s proposal, DPAC orientation session and an update on maintenance.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Bret Amundson, Jodi Broadwell, Philip Gilpin, Paula Gudmundson, Noah Hobbs, Amanda McElray Hunter, Sandy Johnson, Mary Tennis, Christina Woods

Absent: Melissa LaTour

Staff Present: Steven Robertson, Eleanor Bacso

**July Meeting Minutes**

The July meeting minutes were approved with minor corrections. Johnson made a motion to approve the July meeting minutes as amended with a second by Hobbs.

Amundson	Broadwell	Gilpin	Gudmundson	McElray Hunter	Johnson	Tennis	Woods
Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea

**Financial Report**

Bacso shared with DPAC their updated budget with a reminder that DPAC will not be receiving tourism tax funding for this year.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Absent Narratives-Christina Woods**

Woods challenges DPAC to look at what narratives are absent in our community and what plan can DPAC collectively make to ensure we are telling a more complete story of Duluth. Woods shared that she primarily sees that the Anishinaabe narrative as primarily erased. Johnson asked if DPAC should create a subcommittee around this issue. Gudmundson asked if this subcommittee would discuss how DPAC plans to solicit future pieces and to address the element of absent narratives. Tennis asked who is interested in joining this subcommittee. Woods, Broadwell, Gudmundson and McElray Hunter are interested. Woods said she would be interested in joining Broadwell on the Art Maintenance Subcommittee. It was suggested to combine an Absent Narratives Subcommittee with our Conservation/Maintenance Subcommittee since the latter has an inventory of current Duluth art work. Woods has been invited to join a task force for the State of Minnesota to look at the statewide statues and the group will study what the plans will be for current existing statues.

### **Artist Registry-Philip Gilpin**

Gilpin has spoken with artists around town and has learned that the artists feel that they have missed out on financial assistance opportunities. He shared that this has been happening pre-COVID as well. Gilpin asked if DPAC could create an artist registry that would include: names, zip codes and the mediums of art. Gilpin said that in this point in time it looks like we would have to hire a part-time person to do this project. Gilpin shared the art community is struggling right now and thinks that DPAC can be helpful. Woods shared that Springboard for the Arts has been the catch all for this in the past. Woods said the Duluth Art Institute is creating a database for Northeast Minnesota that is specifically for the visual artists and will be sharing them by region. Gilpin said since the database primarily focuses on visual artists we are missing out on writers, poets, musicians, the film making community etc. Broadwell asks if there is anything like this that someone else is doing already? Woods suggests it is a good idea for DPAC to stay connected with the arts organizations who are doing this work right now. Gilpin said DPAC can help connect different organizations with one another as there is a lot of arts opportunity that are being missed, to help centralize this down the road it would

be good. Tennis said DPAC can be a conduit and use the City's communications to help connect different arts organizations to create such a list. Tennis said DPAC should be a conduit to connect artists and organizations to one another.

### **DPAC Orientation-Mary Tennis**

Tennis asked if people are interested in doing an hour long DPAC orientation. The new commissioners were interested. Tennis would send out a Doodle Poll to get a meeting scheduled.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **Leif Erickson Statue-Mary Tennis**

Tennis shared that the Nordic Center is distinctly separate from the Sons of Norway and that she spoke with both of them regarding the statue. Tennis read the new verbiage of the potential new plaque that would replace the old one. Tennis shared that DPAC has the ability to treat this as a draft and can omit parts of it. Woods stated that there is no didactic about the Anishinaabe people and that it was lacking a purpose statement as to why the statue is here. Woods also shared that the plaque should cover a timeline because it is not specific. McElray Hunter asked if the new plaque is going to change the dynamic in that space with defacement. Gudmundson said that the part that is being defaced is the word discoverer. Broadwell said this is the first step to change the current plaque to make it historically accurate and then there will be additional long range plans for the statue. Tennis took notes on commissioner's suggestions. Tennis, Broadwell and Woods will reconvene to come up with more suggestions. Tennis will reshare this with DPAC once the verbiage is finalized. DPAC will vote on the final plaque at the next meeting. Tennis also shared that the Sons of Norway would be very concerned if the statue were to be removed. She also shared that the Nordic Center strongly suggested to change the inscription.

Woods left the meeting at 5:28pm.

### **Superior Street Art Walk-Sandy Johnson**

Johnson shared that this subcommittee would be meeting this upcoming Thursday (8/20/20) at 4:30pm and the group would walk a portion of Superior Street to check out the spaces.

### **African Heritage Visibility Mural- Eleanor Bacso**

Alicia Kozlowski and Bacso met briefly with Minnesota Power two weeks ago and MN Power has expressed that they would like to see some community engagement surrounding this mural. MN Power had done a series of engagement events with the western plaza. Tennis, Bacso and Dudley are planning to meet with one of the City's engineers to learn more about how the plaza will look with the new redesign.

Johnson asked for renderings of the East and West plazas (one from Dudley and MN Power). Tennis asked if MN Power would be willing to attend DPAC Meeting to discuss how they would like DPAC to lead a public process. Bacso will ask if they have availability for September's meeting. Gudmundson asks if DPAC should wait to move forward until we receive a design, Johnson agreed. Amundson was concerned that the artist is not from Duluth and the level of the artist's experience with murals. Gilpin asked if artist is not from Duluth, how can he represent Duluth? Broadwell said it is important that DPAC has input and final approval with the piece. McElray Hunter mentioned that there would be multiple muralist working on the project and that it would be good to talk to Classie and Delphin that the majority of the mural be done with a professional muralist and have other novice muralists involved to learn the process so we can have homegrown muralists. Amundson had inquired with other muralists regarding the cost of the mural and the estimated budget for this mural is almost double in costs. Johnson agreed with Amundson's concerns about Delphin's level of experience with murals and the estimated budget being so high.

Johnson asked if the remaining Imagine Duluth funds could be used at the East Plaza location. Bacso said they could be but were required to be used by September 2020. Classie is not interested in other sites for this piece that have been proposed in Canal Park.

Johnson brought up the proposal that says Delphin's attachments show design concept of mural. All commissioners agreed there were beautiful samples of his work but no design for the mural was included with the proposal. It was reiterated that DPAC would need to see and approve the design.

### **Tia's Keobounpheng UNWEAVING Proposal**

Bacso shared that Tia will begin her installation the first week of September and that it would be on display until October. Bacso will send out the website and press release with commissioners.

### **Maintenance**

There was not enough time during the meeting to discuss maintenance.

### **Public Comment**

**Confirm next meeting date:** September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting ended at: 6:01pm.