

Duluth Public Arts Commission
MINUTES for Monday, December 16, 2019
4:30pm – 6:00pm
LOCATION: Conference Room 155

ROLL CALL

Present: Mary Tennis, Melissa LaTour, Ashley Kolka-Lee, Sandy Johnson, Eleanor Bacso (Staff)

Absent: Jodi Broadwell, Kelli Latuska

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Review, approval of October Meeting Minutes Mary Tennis

Ashley moves to approve the minutes, second by Sandy. All in favor.

Financial Report Eleanor Bacso

Eleanor shared that DPAC Received 15k in tourism taxes again for the 2020 year.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Maintenance Update Ashley Kolka-Lee

Ashley is going to send Penny Perry's total amount for the work she has done on conservation this past fall.

NorShor Wrap-Up Sandy Johnson

Sandy shared that Susan Martinsen and Tony Dierckins had a conversation about Uncle Fester's face on the NorShor Mural. Susan said she would look at the mural to see if painting over it would not compromise the mural. DPAC is going to leave this decision up to Susan.

The NorShor sign was discussed for the mural. Susan Martinsen has approved the sign along with the location in which it will be placed on the far right of the mural on the curtain of the Mama Mia scene. The style of sign fits along with the NorShor's branding. The total cost for the sign is \$400.

Mary makes a motion to approve payment for the sign, Ashley seconds. All in favor.

Superior Street Art Walk - Sandy Johnson

There is a potential sponsorship by a business who is considering a piece in front of their location.

NEW BUSINESS

DAI Mayor's Reception Room and City Hall Rotunda - Mary Tennis on behalf of Amy Varsek

Mary went over the proposals of the Duluth Art Institute for the Mayor's reception room and City Hall Rotunda.

Mary calls a vote to approve the Mayor's Reception room (Sharon Dawson exhibit).

(VOTE: 4-0, Johnson opposed to Blessed Born of Water, Stone, Moss and Bone painting)

Sandy expressed that the Blessed Born of Water, Stone, Moss and Bone painting was a bit dark for the Mayor's Reception room.

Mary calls a vote to approve the City Hall Rotunda artwork (Our Neighbors: BAM).

(VOTE: 3-1, Johnson opposed)

Sandy shared that there was a place in City Hall for the artwork, but just not the rotunda.

The group talked about the Duluth Art Institute's contract and about the possibility of compensating for their time curating and installing the pieces. There was a discussion about DPAC's relationship with the DAI. Sandy asked how much time DAI is spending on curating this art for us. Mary mentioned that they are likely spending quite a bit of time curating as DAI is not an art collector. Mary said she would do an overall review of how the process and how contract has gone with Amy Varsek of the DAI. DPAC commissioners generally agreed that would be a good idea to do so. Sandy mentioned that the Tweed Museum could be a possible fit as an alternative option.

Art in the City - Amber Haglund-Pagel

Amber shared that there was an idea shared at the City's Ideas Fair regarding murals on City owned buildings. Amber shared that potentially the City could have a database that can connect businesses and artists. It would be a match maker for artists, places and businesses. Artists could define in the database how much the mural would cost, the length of time, materials etc. This way businesses can look through and see if something could fit with them. The database could be advertised, promoted in a way that could help proliferate public art; (the City or DPAC could be in charge of the database). Amber said she could have someone build the

database so that DPAC would not have to build it. They would want DPAC to approve pieces and possibly location of pieces. Mary said that an RFP could be a good process for this. Perhaps part of the database could be a form that would produce an RFP. Ashley said there is an existing database that artists register statewide: mnartists.org. The DPAC mentioned they do not need to be involved if there is a private building. This database would be a good way to create opportunities for artists. Mary mentioned that maybe someone from DPAC could sit on a sub-committee for the project. Overall, DPAC thinks it would be a great idea.

Utility Box Wraps

DPAC would like to be involved in the selection and vetting process of the utility box wraps. Anyone who is interested would need to go through the proposal process. Ashley noted that some of the newer utility box wraps have had some peeling. Possibility DPAC can identify which utility boxes which are the best candidates for the wraps. DPAC would like to heavily involved in the process if there are requests for funding of utility boxes. Ashley brought up the idea that the private utility boxes could be beautified along the Lakewalk by sponsorship by the neighboring businesses.

Staff Options - Mary Tennis

Mary mentioned that the individuals who comprised DPAC 15 years ago is different than now. Mary noted that there were more philanthropists in Duluth who did not work full time who had quite a bit of volunteer time to put into a commission. She mentioned that there is so much more that DPAC wants to accomplish and that there is limited time of commissioners. She suggested that DPAC could fund a position for 18 months to do some work. Mary was wondering if there is a way of contracting a position. Ashley noted that she would like to fill all of the vacant DPAC spots before making such a decision. The group decided DPAC should try to fill the vacancies.

Public Comment

Confirm next Meeting Date: January 27th, 2020

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:09 p.m.