

Duluth Public Arts Commission

MINUTES for Monday, September 21st, 2020

4:30pm-6:00pm

Call Meeting to Order

President Tennis called the meeting to order at 4:33 p.m.

Additions to the Agenda

There were no additions to the agenda.

ROLL CALL

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

Guests Present: Tina Koecher, Minnesota Power

Staff Present: Eleanor Bacso, Madison Finora, Steven Robertson

Approval of the minutes

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

Broadwell	Gilpin	Gudmundson	Hobbs	LaTour	McElray Hunter	Johnson	Tennis	Woods
Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea

Amundson joined the meeting at 4:45pm.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

**African Heritage Visibility Mural: MN Power West Plaza Engagement Process-
Tina Koecher, Minnesota Power**

Tina Koecher presented on Minnesota Power's stakeholder's engagement process for the West Plaza. Koecher shared that if Minnesota Power or the City wants to make an improvement to one of the plazas, typically the proposer of the improvement will need to fund and maintain the changes. In the agreement, any proposed changes to either plaza will need to be approved by both Minnesota Power and the City. The vision that MN Power has of the West Plaza was for it to serve a multigenerational workplace and to continue as a community space. MN Power's goal was for the inside of their building and the outside of it to be cohesive.

Minnesota Power used a stakeholder engagement process throughout the planning and designing process. The stakeholder engagement consisted of in-person meetings, surveys, dialogues, physical walk through of the space, visual examples exercises, Doodle Polls, follow up emails and progress tours. The stakeholder group included: Greater Downtown Council, Electric Fetus, Zeitgeist Arts, City of Duluth, City of Duluth Police, Neighbor & County Commissioner-Frank Jewell, Northland Constructors, Grandmas Restaurants and Canal Park Business Association.

Koecher shared that MN Power made a point to be mindful of timelines regarding agreements, plaza permitting/approval, demolition and construction. LHB created design mock-ups of the West Plaza. MN Power also worked with the City of Duluth and worked to align the design of both the East and West Plazas.

Koecher shared that MN Power is very open to public art and has discussed art as being part of the plazas. MN Power hopes for a community engagement process that would tie into a broader vision and would like to be part of the stakeholder process. Broadwell asked if the plaza would still be open to the general public. Koecher said although the plaza is still privately owned it is still viewed as a community space and events still can be permitted there. Tennis said that DPAC would need to provide an equal stakeholder engagement process for the East Plaza. Tennis suggested a subcommittee for this initiative and that it will be important to have City staff support on this project. Johnson asked if this mural would fit into the design of the project as a whole. Tennis said because there isn't a design that's been done yet, there is a space there for visioning and stakeholders. Gudmundson said the City is establishing the African Heritage

Commission and that this commission could potentially be a part of the stakeholder group. Amundson asked what the mural would consist of and what the process to create the mural is. Tennis said it is very common to have a vision/query and to have an artist interpret it by coming up with a design. Tennis asked how would we reach out to people and gather information. McElray Hunter was wondering why there had not been a sketch submitted and if the subcommittee could do a request for proposal. Woods said she is concerned about the diversity of voices and would like the first meeting of the subcommittee to discuss this as well as process and timeline. Woods said that the subcommittee needs to have Classie Dudley at the table as well. The commissioners who were interested in serving on the African Heritage Subcommittee are: La Tour, Amundson, Woods, Johnson, McElray Hunter, Gudmundson, Hobbs. Bacso will send out an email to establish the first meeting. Johnson asked for Minnesota Power’s PowerPoint. Koecher said MN Power is very interested in being part of any stakeholder process and that a representative from the Electric Fetus should be involved as a stakeholder. Koecher left the meeting at 5:18 p.m.

Maintenance-Jodi Broadwell

Broadwell is looking for additional members to join the maintenance subcommittee. Broadwell shared that the subcommittee reviews pieces and the appropriateness of each piece. Broadwell also shared that there is a spreadsheet of what pieces need maintenance and that this subcommittee works to prioritize what pieces need attention. LaTour, Tennis and McElray Hunter are joining the subcommittee.

Leif Erikson Statue-Mary Tennis

Tennis read the draft language for the new plaque for the Leif Erikson statue. Commissioners suggested edits to the text as Mary made edits in GoogleDocs.

Gudmundson makes a motion to accept the inscription with Woods seconding the motion.

Amundson	Broadwell	Gilpin	Gudmundson	Hobbs
Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea
Johnson	La Tour	McElray Hunter	Tennis	Woods

Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea
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Tennis will request quotes for installation, cost of plaque and is planning to have both costs for approval at the next meeting.

Superior Street Art Walk-Sandy Johnson

Johnson shared that the a small group of the subcommittee met and looked at locations from 3rd Street West over to the Incline Station that had enough space for art. Gilpin took some photos of the potential spaces. Gilpin believes if DPAC puts out a national RFP for art installations on Superior Street it can help with the longer term goal of Duluth shining as a regional arts hub locally or nationally. Tennis asked if we could do an RFQ and Gilpin said it would be a great idea. Another idea was to have neighborhood groups/artists submit designs for neighborhood banners that could be placed along Superior Street. Johnson asked Bacso to find out how many neighborhoods there are in Duluth. McElray Hunter shared another idea the group came up with is to have local media artists do light projections onto the snow. La Tour has a name of an artist suggest that did light projections during homegrown. Johnson asked if the commission was supportive of these ideas and if the group should move forward. The commission is supportive of the committee moving forward. Tennis said there was an artist who approached the commission a few months ago who does interactive lighting as well.

Airport Update-Jodi Broadwell

Broadwell shared the background and a general update for the rotating art exhibition in the Duluth International Airport. The plan is to have the artwork pieces changed out twice a year. Woods asked questions if artists can sell their work. Broadwell shared that the customers would get in touch directly with the artists. Woods asked a second question regarding who would carry the insurance on the art. Bacso will look into this. Broadwell said the application process would be ongoing that anyone can apply at any time. Woods suggested option for people to mail in their applications. Woods said that there should be transparency in who is selecting the art. The airport would like to approve the pieces and be present during the change out. Broadwell said that DPAC can have community volunteers engaged in this. Woods shared that there is information on the

Minnesota Capitol Art Exhibit Advisory Committee's site that DPAC could use for the application.

Broadwell left the meeting at 5:59pm.

Date for Orientation-Mary Tennis

Tennis said that on October 7th from 5:30pm-6:30pm there will be a brief orientation. Tennis will cover creative watershed plan and background in public arts funds, mission statement along with questions and answers.

Public Comment

Confirm next meeting date: October 19th, 2020

ADJOURNEMENT

The meeting ended at 6:05pm.