

# **Duluth Public Arts Commission**

## **MINUTES 3/17/2025**

### **Call to Order and Roll Call**

Meeting started at 4:05

Present: Marshik, Woods, Underwood, Gardonio, Durrwachter.

Absent: Amanda Hunter

Others Present: Mark Boben, Paul Hanson, Tim Cortez, Penny Perry.

Staff: Angie Stier, Natalie Lavenstein, Ben VanTassel

### **Approval of Minutes**

Approval of February 26<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes

Woods made a motion to approve February meeting minutes with a second by Marshik. Durrwachter absent. \*Durrwachter arrived at approximately 4:55

### **Staff Updates (Angie Stier)**

- Website was updated to reflect meeting times and new DPAC president.
- Rachel Gustafson printing with vendor.
- Received utility box wrap applications.

### **Discussion Items**

#### **GND Skatepark**

- Boben: We submitted this roughly 6 months ago. GND is a regional destination bringing in folks from various places and backgrounds. The skatepark opened last fall. Currently, there is almost no public art in West Duluth. Several artists are involved in this project. Art concepts are in the packet for review.
- Cortez removed canoe photo from the exhibit. A modern photo of a church included. No major changes other than switching that one photo.
- Cortez: No other changes will be made unless DPAC is involved.

- Woods: For situations like this, the artist could reach out to a native panel for review.
- Vote for Approval: Gardonio made a motion to fund GND \$5,000. Marshik first. Underwood second. Motion moved. Durrwachter absent.  
\*Durrwachter arrived at approximately 4:55

### **Ben VanTassel Updates**

- The mayor will move appointments forward soon.
- There will be very little if any project management support. Will talk specifics next meeting about staff numbers and names going forward.
- It is unlikely we will see a sustainable funding source from the City in the near future. City reviewing budget, tight budget for the next few years.
- Woods: Will the City take on conservation and decommissioning costs? DPAC has funding now that is earmarked.
- Marshik: we can cover cleaning but not major repairs.
- Ben: Funds should be used for maintenance. If we can support it through City funds great, but not likely at this time.
- Gardonio: We've been told to be visible and that if we want money, we have to spend it. Sounds like we will change that. DPAC and City need to get on the same page...same narrative.
- Gardonio: Is there a path for grants in the future? For staff time or projects? NEA Grant Due April 10<sup>th</sup>. Ben: not for staff time, will review this with the City's grant team.
- Marshik: Can we do new utility box wraps? Angie: Maybe we can get some of that workload from staff to commissioners. Ben: Review your budget and adjust from there.

### **Paul Hanson – Downtown Historical Signage**

- Old signage throughout downtown. Not seeking funds but signage highlighted for historical purposes.

- Woods: We have Historic Preservation Commission. Many historic signage is protected now. Could ask the commission to review what is historic and not.
  - DPAC has a narrow capacity to give feedback on this.
  - Duluth historic register is generally stricter and more specific than the national register.

### **Utility Box Wraps – Call for Artists 2025 Applications (5)**

- One Application Received (Teresa Cox)

### **Penny Perry**

- Cleaning work in 2024
  - Arising AKA Peace Sculpture
    - Obscene graffiti
  - Green Bear: gets loved to death. City landscaping has done some damage. There should be woodchips around it to prevent this. Can landscape staff do a better job?
  - Green tone is not the original patina. Process: wash, remove residual washing and wax, dry, brush with special wax, cure (temp sensitive), buff.
  - Gardonio working with sign company because the sign is very sharp and hard to read.
  - Bear should have cover. Lots of salt exposure.
  - Gardonio: If Parks damages it, they should pay for it.
  - Perry: Ordinance language spells out DPAC jurisdiction.
  - Marshik: DPAC not getting tourist tax. We could potentially apply for tourist tax grant. Unlikely though.
  - How do you know what to work on? Perry: works on what DPAC assigns. Penny conducts site visits to determine which pieces are priorities.
  - Perry: Clayton Jackson McGee was maintained on a good schedule, and we want to continue that.
  - Gardonio: Survey company may come to Duluth.

- Perry: Fish art in Canal Park needs attention.
- Perry: Man, Child & Gull in Canal Park. We could get hold of that install company. Someone needs to determine if this is a stable structure.
- Perry: Sculpture taken out of commission near Comfort Systems. Gardonio: No longer DPAC's. Possibly at Sacred Heart. Gardonio will follow up with Penny.
- Marshik: DPAC won't stop doing conservation. Need to reevaluate budget.
- Gardonio: We have an outstanding proposal for the survey.
- Would like to have this service complete in May. Will need a chaperone. Likely Perry. Marshik: Estimate for survey: \$1350. Estimate for conservation \$20,000.
- Marshik motioned to move KCI Conservation proposal for art survey to the agenda with a second from Durrwachter.
- Gardonio motioned to pay KCI Conservation \$1350 for survey with a second from Underwood. Motion passed unanimously. Woods absent. \*Woods left meeting at approximately 4:50

## **Other**

- Woods: Ann Clark from the Greysolon Daughters of Liberty Chapter reached out regarding a statue of liberty replica. Statue removed because of DECC construction. May be in extremely fragile state. Duluth does not have a budget to maintain this. Angie: The statue is in facilities and the family is not interested in receiving it. Under DPAC jurisdiction. The decommissioning policy was reviewed by Angie and attorneys and will need to be discussed. Perry: Statue was repaired by welders in 2014 and was not fully restored. Extensive repairs may be needed.
- Marshik: Next agenda should include a budget and goals discussion.
- Durrwachter: We could advocate to get that 1% of new public buildings. There is ordinance language. Jenn Carlson's email lists building that

qualify. May not be bonded portion of the 1%. Public buildings only. This needs further research and discussion.

### **Adjournment**

Motion by Gardonio to adjourn the meeting, with a second by Underwood.  
Meeting adjourned at 5:35. Woods absent. \*Woods left meeting at approximately 4:50