

# PUBLIC ART COMMISSION MEETING

## MINUTES

**Wednesday, August 9, 2023, 4 pm**

In attendance: Erik Reynolds, Roberta Rogers, Megan DeLong, Andy Hiller, Jessica Travis, Katie Beck, Jon Fiume, Larissa Brown, Stephanie Leonardi, and Summer Hall

1. Call meeting to order
  - A. The meeting was called to order at 4:02 pm.
2. Roll call
3. Approval of the previous meeting minutes
  - B. Jon motioned to approve the minutes, which Larissa seconded. No one opposed so the minutes were approved.
4. Glendale Mural
  - C. More discussion is necessary. Katie questioned whether the Commission had only approved the project or agreed to match funding. Erik affirmed that the project has only been approved to continue. Funding is still to be determined and the Commission hopes to see drafts of artwork before deciding on funding.
5. Traffic Signal Boxes Project
  - D. Andy suggested that 1 or 2 commissioners should prepare proposals of neighborhoods or streets for this project. There will be a formal vote at the next meeting. Summer said that there are downtown options, but Main Street is being considered for a related project.
  - E. Larissa mentioned putting the new Public Art Commission logo on the boxes as a form of marketing for the Commission. Roberta noted that contact information for the Commission should be included on the boxes as well. Andy also suggested marketing the Commission through media coverage of the traffic signal box installation. Summer highlighted the City's press release as a form of publicity.
  - F. On determining the budget, Summer set a goal of \$10,000, as Stow spent approximately \$9,000 on 16 of their smaller boxes. Andy volunteered to work with Summer on an FRQ to seek quotes from local businesses.
6. Inventory Project and Public Art Budget
  - G. Jon mentioned that before spending Public Art Commission budget on the signal boxes, they should consider that money has already been set aside for Mac Love's inventory project. He also addressed his concern that the Commission is not a funding organization. Erik said that the Commission should change its language from "funding cycles".
  - H. Erik asked why the Inventory Project has been put on hold until 2024. Summer noted that it was at the Mayor's request. She explained that contracts are approved by the Commission, then the Mayor, then City Council. Since the Mayor did not sign the contract, there is no breach of contract.
  - I. Andy suggested that the Commission create spending rules to decide how Commission funds should be spent, especially deciding how much of the budget is discretionary.

- J. Jon noted that this inventory project was supposed to be a foundation for future Public Art Commission projects, so further discussion is needed with the Mayor.
7. Public Land Flow Chart
- K. Erik suggested that the chart should better explain what public land means for public art. Jon suggested that the names need to be updated. Andy suggested that email and contact information should also be added.
8. Secretary Role
- L. Jon brought up that in his prior experience, there was a secretary on the commission in name, but a staff member took notes and minutes. He had volunteered to serve as Secretary but thought that taking the minutes would distract from his ability to contribute as a Commissioner. Summer explained that for the time being, interns could take notes.
  - M. Andy noted that the Commissioners should communicate more outside of meetings to make the meetings more efficient.
9. Logo Colors
- N. Summer said that she received two suggestions by email, orange and black. She suggested that the Commissioners email their ideas to the group. The goal is to vote on the color palette at the next meeting. She also said that having art on the back of the business cards is optional.
10. Commissioner Photo Sessions
- O. Bruce Ford will be taking the photos at the Akron Art Museum. The date options include Monday, August 14; Tuesday, August 15; Thursday, August 17; or Friday, August 18. Summer said to aim for one or two days, and that Bruce wants to do a morning shoot. She will send a Doodle to the Commissioners to schedule days and time slots.
11. Rebranding Commission and Website
- P. Without the art inventory, Andy suggested creating a form for the community to fill out about where they'd like to see public art. Erik brought up that not everyone could access an online survey, so mailers or flyers could reach those without technological access. Summer mentioned that mailers would be expensive, but hard copies of the survey could be put in community centers. Andy also said that they could ask council members to address public art at their ward meetings. Roberta expressed that ward meetings are not often well-attended.
  - Q. Jon said that he believes that the Commission is taking on too much, and that they should focus on finishing the business cards, establishing the budget, and the Mac Love project before rebranding.
  - R. Andy mentioned using intentionally designed user interfaces to get more quality data from surveys, to avoid extraneous information. Larissa supported the idea of a survey as a steppingstone. She said that the Public Art Commission website is an important resource for directing the public, but it should be simple and effective.
12. Upcoming Public Art Events
- S. Summer suggested that the Commissioners sign up for emails from ArtsNow, Summit Artspace, and the Black Artists Guild, to stay up to date. Jon said that SummitLive365 compiles many local events, so signing up with SummitLive365.com will keep Commissioners from being inundated with repeat emails.
  - T. Roberta reminded the Commissioners of the Summit ArtSpace ArtWalk on September 8th, from 5-9 pm. It is also tied in with the Rubber City Jazz Festival.

13. Reading of Public Comments

U. No public comments.

14. Priorities for next meeting

V. Approvals and budget, Website and logo, Colors for logo, Photo sessions

15. Adjournment

W. Erik motioned to adjourn the meeting, which Jon seconded. No one opposed so the meeting was adjourned at 5:33 pm.