

**CITY OF NORWALK
ARTS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
August 2, 2022**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Board: Chairman Marc Alan, Brian Kaspr, Nori Grudin, Elizabeth Tardif, Bob Abriola, Eva Jacobs, Janet Evelyn, Melissa Matuska (7:00), Steven Rust (7:00),

Staff: Sabrina Church,

Other: Donna Schlegel, Ash Nichols

Chairman Alan called the meeting to order at 6:03. A quorum was present.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

III. ADMINISTRATION

Approve the minutes of the June 7, 2022 meeting.

**** **Mr. Abriola moved to approve the minutes of the June 2, 2022 meeting.**

**** **Mr. Kaspr seconded the motion.**

**** **The motion passed with Ms. Jacobs abstaining.**

IV. NEW BUSINESS

a. Approve the donation of the Dragon Boat to the City of Norwalk and its suggested placement.

Ms. Church reported that the South Norwalk Business Association, the original owner, has closed. Ms. Church confirmed that the original owner and the artist need to sign over the rights. The legal department's plan is to find a former officer of the South Norwalk Business Association to sign over the rights.

The next steps are to have the Arts Commission accept the donation and choose an appropriate location to display the piece. After that, the Common Council will approve the acquisition.

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Chairman Alan asked if an appraisal was necessary. Ms. Church confirmed that in this situation an appraisal was not necessary.

Chairman Alan confirmed that the suggested location is the Community Room of City Hall. However, the location is open to suggestions.

Ms. Schlegel gave a background on what dragon races were, and this piece in particular.

Ms. Schlegel confirmed that she had been a member and has gotten approval from all the former members of the South Norwalk Business Association and the artist, Rand Arrowitz, to make the donation. She gave a background of the artist and the piece itself.

Chairman Alan asked if signage giving the history could be included in the display. Ms. Schlegel confirmed that there are funds available for this that have been set aside from the business association.

There was discussion as to the placement, so as to maximize the amount of people who get to see it. It was agreed to vote to approve that the piece be displayed in the lobby for a few months and then moved to the Community Room.

Chairman Alan asked if there was any funding to maintain the work. Ms. Church confirmed that there was a small budget for this.

******Mr. Abriola moved to accept the Dragon Boat donation.**

******Ms. Grudin seconded the motion.**

******The motion passed unanimously.**

b. Design review for Traffic Graphic Box by artist Ash Nichols.

Chairman Alan confirmed that funds are available to decorate traffic boxes, however, specific locations have not been approved. This box is not limited to the MLK Corridor.

Ms. Nichols presented two ideas for traffic box paintings. Ms. Nichols created colorful, abstracted images of her impression of the people of Norwalk: friendly, welcoming, and colorful.

******Mr. Abriola moved to accept the first design with a change in the door number to 203.**

******Mr. Kaspr seconded the motion.**

******The motion passed unanimously.**

c. Welcome of new member – Ava Jacobs

Chairman Alan introduced Ava Jacobs, a new committee member. The committee welcomed her.

V. COMMITTEE STAFF UPDATES

a. Budget Committee Update

i. Finance update – Nori Grudin

The new fiscal year started on July 1, 2022. There is a budget of \$16,500. There is also a balance of \$25,000 in the Art in Public Places budget.

There is also Capital Funding, which includes the MLK projects, in addition to the \$16,500. There is also grant money available.

Capital Funding will be sought to pay for inventorying, cataloging, archiving and valuing the entire public art collection.

b. Communications Committee Update

i. Social Media update – Marc Alan

All social media for the Arts Commission needs to be generated from the commission itself, it won't be done by any city employee.

Chairman Alan invited Ms. Nichols to join the Communications Committee, she agreed.

c. Infrastructure Committee Update - Brian Kaspr

i. Art in Public Places RFQ and proposal update

Mr. Kaspr announced that the RFQ proposals have been narrowed down to two of the three artists for the Monroe Street Underpass. Mr. Kaspr would like to have a total of five artists submitting proposals, which would require an increased budget.

Artist number one is GERA Lozano. Mr. Kaspr shared images of their past work.

Artist number two is Ernesto Maranje. Again, Mr. Kaspr shared images of their past work.

Mr. Kaspr presented the work of four more artists for the committee to choose the third artist to be invited to submit a proposal.

Ms. Church confirmed that there is \$75,000 available for this project. Mr. Kaspr would like to keep the budget for this underpass under \$50,000, and carry over the remaining funds to larger projects in the future.

The committee agreed to offer the last paid proposal to artist number three.

iii. MLK Lighting Project update

Mr. Rust reported that there was an issue with the electrician, so there is nothing to report on this at the moment.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

*****Mr. Matuska moved to adjourn the meeting.**

*****Mr. Rust seconded the motion.**

*****The motion passed unanimously.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Chapple
Telesco Secretarial Services