



CHATTANOOGA PUBLIC ART COMMISSION OCTOBER 2021 | MINUTES

Wednesday, October 20, 2021, 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM
Veranda Room / City Hall

PRESENT: Rachel Reese (Chair), Miriam Manda (Vice Chair), John Brown, Charlotte Caldwell, Aaron Cole, Megan Ledbetter, Justin McBath, John Petrey and Lindsey Willke

ABSENT: Tim Goldsmith, Ric Morris, and Virginia Anne Sharber

STAFF: Kat Wright, Public Art Director

CITY ADVISORY: Harolda Bryson (Legal) and Morgan McCormick (Parks)

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Welcome
- B. Approval of August 2021 Meeting Minutes with one correction per spelling.

II. ITEM FOR VOTE

1. Ed Johnson Memorial
 - A. Staff discussed details of the dedication ceremony in September for the Ed Johnson Memorial showing photos of the completed work.
 - B. Staff discussed the funding sources for the project which include the Ed Johnson Committee, Hamilton County, PAC, and the City with the development of Walnut Plaza that includes the Memorial.
 - C. Staff stated that this donation proposal has no maintenance line item attached to it due to a project delta. As the Memorial is both historically and culturally significant, the City decided it would make an exception to this policy. Staff will have to request funding through capital planning or local foundations to ensure its care.
 - D. Community Foundation of Greater Chattanooga, the project's fiscal agent, is to reimburse the City's Public Works Department for site work in which Staff attempted to divert a percentage of that reimbursement for maintenance, but was unsuccessful as the full amount is a budget source for Walnut Plaza.
 - E. Staff explained that the Memorial site has some remaining punch, but should be transferred back to the City by November 15, with an artwork conservation assessment report.

- F. Staff reviewed particulars of an assessment report, which would indicate how much funding is needed to maintain the piece.
- G. Commissioners questioned what the full Memorial title name was, and Staff said they would confirm upon City Council approval of the donation to ensure it is properly insured and publicized.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS VOTE TO APPROVE the Ed Johnson Memorial pending the receipt of a Conservation Assessment Report into the permanent public art collection.

2. "The Scramble" Interactive Streetscape

- A. Staff conveyed that PAC partnered with River City Company (RCC) on the Artist Call and Selection, but the project was implemented by RCC and supported by sitework from the City's Public Works Department.
- B. Staff discussed the artwork elements as interactive and lit at night.
- C. Staff stated that leftover site work project contingency would be transferred to the PAC maintenance fund.
- D. Staff noted an early failure of one of the water chamber lids, which necessitated re-engineering and replacing all of the water chamber lids. The lids were designed to be light enough for the Parks Department to remove the lids and clean trash out, replace lights as needed and support individual weight of 225 pounds on them during use, but that is not does not take into account the dynamic weight load on the tops.
- E. The tops can now support 400 pounds, and have been tested by the Parks Department.
- F. Due to the early failure of the tops, the Office of City Attorney is requesting that RCC share in carrying liability insurance on the piece for a period of two years.
- G. Legal confirmed this statement and said she intends to get a finalized donation agreement with the updated language about the insurance requirements by the end of the week.
- H. Commissioners asked if there had been any injuries on the piece to date in which Staff maintained not to their knowledge.
- I. Commissioners further asked if the piece was subject to ADA requirements in which Legal stated they were not certain. Staff stated that would likely be a consideration if the artwork was designed as a playground with regulatory standards.
- J. Commissioners asked why the liability amount was only set at \$1 million per occurrence, in which Legal responded that it is the City's standard requirement.
- K. Staff stated that after two years, liability remains with the City, unless an amendment is issued.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS VOTE TO APPROVE "The Scramble" Interactive Streetspace into the permanent art collection.

3. "Vibes Resonance" Mural at the Maurice Martin Amphitheater

- A. Staff remind the Commission that although this artwork is the result of a PAC Artist Work Grant, the grant recipient SoundCorps, subcontracted separately with the Artist SEVEN, necessitating an artwork donation review to ensure all contractual terms with the Artist transfer to the City as the third party beneficiary.
- B. Staff showed photos of the mural and discussed the insured value of the piece.
- C. Commissioners asked if the woman pictured in the mural was a photo taken by the Artist, to which Staff stated that either the photo was an original photo that the Artist used in his artwork or it was a stock photo that has been manipulated so many times that now it's fair use.
- D. Staff reviewed the maintenance and conservation report of the mural provided by the Artist.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS VOTE TO APPROVE "Vibes Resonance" for the permanent art collection.

III. UPDATES

- 1. Artist Work Grant Round 3 Project Updates
 - A. Sluggos Mural has been completed. Staff will provide the evaluation report as it becomes available.
 - B. The mobile installation "Give Way to the Wind" will now be sited at the Chattanooga Convention Center. Despite receiving a letter of support from Airport CEO, Terry Hart, the project team of Anna Carll and Claire Vassort (2CREATE) learned that upcoming terminal construction would delay project completion for 2 years. Unfortunately, grant parameters necessitate that all projects must be completed before September 2022.
 - C. Staff identified the Convention Center as an alternate location with similar traffic.

- 2. "St. Elmo (A History in Steel)" / Riverwalk Extension Phase IV
 - A. The extension goes from Middle Street to the Incline Railway as a current transportation project. The construction impacts the siting of the sculpture, which includes signage providing context on each of the historical elements you see on the sculpture.
 - B. Staff decided to have the sculpture and sign removed at a cost of \$4,300.00 to reduce the likelihood of damage to the work and not impede the progress of the construction.
 - C. The work is stored at the City's Watkins Street facility and expected to be reinstalled in January.

- 3. East Lake Public art Projects
 - A. Projects will consist of artistic elements on the indoor basketball court at the East Lake Community Center and creative and interactive seating at East Lake Park.
 - B. Creative Strategist ELLA Library is contracted for a phase 2 of engagement to specifically inform the artwork designs.

- C. Staff hopes to install the artistic elements on the court this June with seating at the Park this Fall 2022.
- D. Staff reviewed the Artwork Selection Panel members and relayed that the Panel would be adding two more members as former panelists no longer live in East Lake.

4. Lynnbrook Park Public Art Project

- A. The budget for public art is \$87,000 and is projected to include artistic markers throughout the Park that relate to a Sculpture within the Park.
- B. Creative Strategist is Josiah Golson.
- C. Staff reviewed the Artwork Selection Panel members and relayed that the Panel would be adding two more members.

5. Bessie Smith & Blue Goose Hollow Artistic Marker

- A. Staff gave an overview of the project, which is privately funded with a budget of \$42,000..
- B. Staff explained that a final design for the piece was expected by this time, but remains outstanding.
- C. The concept design features an all black marker with black obsidian and African blackwood as materials; however, there has been some difficulty with sourcing those elements, and the rising costs associated with those elements, which will likely require the artist, Rondell Crier, to make material substitutions.
- D. Staff stated that there may be a special Commission meeting before December to approve the Marker's final design so that the Artist can receive his next payment installment of approximately \$13,000 and begin procurement.

6. Staffing / Commission Appointments

- A. Staff informed the Commissioners that the City's operating budget this year includes funding a new part time Collection Specialist, and the transition from a temporary position City Artist to a regular part time position.
- B. Staff stated that the City has a new Department of Innovation, Delivery, and Performance (IDP), and its Administrator has oversight of all the City Boards and Commissions.
- C. Staff explained that this changes the appointment process to the Commission, and noted that IDP will be monitoring Boards and Commissions attendance effective in their work and attending board meetings.
- D. Staff remind the Commission of the attendance policy.
- E. Staff relayed that they will look to meet with IDP soon to see how they can work together going forward.