



CHATTANOOGA PUBLIC ART COMMISSION
Thursday, April 25, 2024, 1:00 - 3:00 PM
City Council Building | J.B. Collins Conference Room

MINUTES

PRESENT: Timothy Goldsmith, Chair; Courtney Cochran; Dixon Stetler; Ian-Alijah Bey; Jonathan Dean; Valerie Smith; Matthew Stovall

STAFF: Carmen Davis, Senior Director, Office of Arts, Culture and Creative Economy; Elizabeth Carriger, Manager, Public Art Chattanooga; Austin Center, Collection Management Specialist; Harolda Bryson, City Attorney

I. Call to Order: Commissioner Goldsmith called the meeting to order at 1:04 PM.

A. Introductions - New Commissioners Kopet and Smith: New Commissioners Ryan Kopet and Sydney Smith are unable to attend today due to existing commitments. Kopet is a design professional with her own design firm. Smith is with the Chattanooga Design Studio - filling former commissioner Lindsay Wilke's seat as an urban design professional.

B. Approval of February 2024 Minutes: Motion made by Commissioner Stetler. Second by Commissioner Bey. Unanimous approval.

II. Projects

A. Updates: Elizabeth Carriger shares the following project updates:

- *Moonrise - Awakening*: An amazing celebration was held on April 23 (423 Day) with yoga, meditation, and sound bathing led by Kate Kirnie (former PAC director, now consultant and forest bathing guide) and Surreina Gallegos Gerbman (yoga and sound bathing instructor) as well as a short nature walk with Shawanna Kendrick of H2O life. Approx. 15 were in attendance. We are hoping that this type of event can be held annually and tied to Earth Day, the moon, and 423 Day.
- *Unearthing Boldness at Blue Goose Hollow*: After rain delays, installation is underway for the artistic marker by artist Rondell Crier

that honors the life and legacy of Bessie Smith as well as her hometown neighborhood that was erased by redevelopment and displaced many Black families over 50 years ago. Plans for a celebration are forthcoming.

- Lynnbrook Park: We are continuing to delay the Call to Artists as we work through the form and process for solicitations.
- EPB Projects: Elizabeth reports on EPB's two art initiatives.
 - Art Spark - Electrical boxes being wrapped over the next few weeks with the work of selected high school students. A celebration event will be held on May 8, 5:30 pm. An interactive map showing box locations is forthcoming.
 - 10th Street Mural - Ten new artists selected last month. Painting in process. Celebration planned for June 13, 10 am.

B. Potential Partnership Projects with CARTA: Elizabeth reports on a positive meeting with the new Executive Director of CARTA, Charles Frazier where a number of partnership opportunities were discussed. He is open to CARTA providing locations for art as well as supporting arts access. We will keep exploring potential opportunities.

C. Private Property Projects: Elizabeth shares that we have a lot of requests for mural guidance. She is working on creating guidelines and best practices for murals on private property so that we can serve as a resource to others wanting to undertake public art that is on private property yet publicly visible or accessible.

III. Collections Management

A. For Discussion/Vote - Donation to the Collection - H. Dan Jackson Sculptures

- Two sculptures (*Big Bird* and *Billie's Mullet*) by artist H. Dan Jackson were submitted for consideration as donations to the City's collection.
- Elizabeth shares background information on H. Dan Jackson (1919-2009, b. Ohio), an engineer and welder who founded his own welding company in 1950 in Chattanooga and eventually turned to sculpting. His work was exhibited across the region, including at the High Museum in Atlanta and is in the Hunter Museum and River Gallery collections.
- Austin shares insight on the existing conditions and restoration needs of each of the works. Some significant repairs are needed especially to *Billie's Mullet*. He notes the idea of a civic partnership

with a local welding firm. There are concerns about the maintenance needs of the existing collection needing to take precedence. The donor has committed \$1000 towards restoration.

- There are potential locations for works, including Greenway Farms and along the Riverwalk.
- It was agreed that staff need to do some additional research on the cost of restoration work needed and the amount of funding support that the donors can provide as well as any restrictions that they may put on the donation. Additionally, donation criteria needs to be clarified and potential locations for installation explored.
- **Motion:** Commissioner Stetler motioned to table the discussion until further information can be provided. Unanimous approval.

B. Updates: Austin shares the following updates:

- Deaccessioning - *Glass Houses* and *Colored Building Blocks*: The decision was made to deaccession the two seating element public art works (installed in 2014) under emergency conditions due to their threat to public safety.
- *Dreamy* - Austin shares that the sculptures will be repainted soon due to issues with the original paint utilized holding dirt and mold that is difficult to clean. They are still under warranty.
- *Policeman's Memorial* - The works are scheduled for restoration May 7-10.

C. Review and Discuss

1. *Volumes* - Austin shares the history of the plaza fountain and the sculptures. *Volumes* replaced an original work that was created for the plaza fountain. Two elements still remain from that original work. Due to maintenance costs and health code concerns, the fountain has been and will remain deactivated. The challenge is to determine how to activate the plaza without the fountain. Elizabeth shares that she plans to put together a working group to work on how to address the challenges. Commissioner Smith has agreed to serve on that group.
2. *Fallen Five Memorial* - Landscaping: Austin shares that the County would like to consider some landscaping changes to address issues with maintaining the current plantings. Commissioner Stovall offered to provide support on working through these changes.
3. *Main Terrain* - Ingress / Egress: Austin shares that with the new Food City, there is a desire to make the park accessible to shoppers and provide a path to accommodate foot traffic.

Commissioner Stovall suggests that we wait to see where the paths form and offers his assistance.

IV. CPAC Business

A. For Vote

1. CPAC Chair and Vice Chair

- At the August 2023 meeting, Commissioner Goldsmith was voted to fill the vacant Chair role and Commissioner To the vacant Vice Chair role until February, at which time there was to be a vote for each of them to serve in those roles for a year. Due to an oversight the vote was delayed until the April meeting.
- **Motion:** Commissioner Cochran motioned for Commissioners Goldsmith and To to serve in their roles as Chair and Vice Chair through February 2025. Second by Commissioner Bey. Unanimous approval.

2. Revised Bylaws: Elizabeth provides an overview of the revisions to the Bylaws:

- Article II - C. Responsibilities: Revised to better align with the Ordinance - there are a few points that will be updated in the Ordinance as well to reflect what is in the Bylaws. Ordinance revisions will be shared at a later date.
- Article III - Membership: Clarification of members and terms (per the Ordinance). G. Vacancies - Revised to state that members appointed to fill vacancies are appointed for a full 3-year term, even if the previous member's term has not expired
- Article VI - D. Selection Panels: 3. Composition - differentiate panel members from CPAC members. Added language to clarify that no more than one CPAC member can serve on a panel.
- Overall: Changing Public Art Director to Public Art Division staff - given the changes in staffing and titles.
- **Motion:** Commissioner Stovall motioned to approve the revisions to the Bylaws. Second by Commissioner Dean. Unanimous approval.

Commissioner Cochran motioned to adjourn the meeting. Second by Commissioner Dean. All in favor.