**MINUTES**

**CITY OF SUWANEE, GEORGIA**

**PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION (PAC) MEETING**

**APRIL 13, 2016**

**6:00 PM**

**Attending:**

Commission members: Vickie Johnson, Lisa Winton, Berney Kirkland, Cherie Heringer, Tim O’Brien, Suzanne Holtkamp, one vacancy.

Staff: Denise Brinson, Alyssa Durden, Toni Shrewsbury

**Call to Order**

Lisa Winton called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

Berney Kirkland moved to approve the minutes from the February 3, 2016 meeting as presented (Tim O’Brien 2nd). Motion carried 6-0.

**Adoption of the Agenda**

Vickie Johnson moved to adopt the agenda as presented (Suzanne Holtkamp 2nd). Motion carried 6-0.

**Developer Presentation/Updates**

Suwanee Pointe Business Park – Neal Shepherd, V.P. with Shaheen & Company, represented the project which will provide incubator and warehouse spaces. Mr. Shepherd shared that the owner of the company, Shouky Shaheen, is interested and vested in public art. He has given some thought to installing something industrial in nature and large in scale near the intersection of Peachtree Industrial Boulevard and Tench Road, a site that provides for good visibility. Suzanne Holtkamp suggested that he may want to take advantage of the services of the City’s public art consultant. Mr. Shepherd indicated that he would be open to a meeting. Alyssa Durden will follow up.

Main Event Entertainment – Alyssa shared that the project has received a development permit and grading has begun. Main Event is working with artist Adam Walls to develop a public art component.

**Public Art Master Plan Update**

Denise Brinson shared the on-going funding and program implementation components of Suwanee’s Public Art Initiative – Development Stages (see handout). She presented the idea of exploring a feasibility study and enlisting the assistance of a professional fundraiser. Discussion ensued.

Vickie Johnson moved to recommend to council to include a public art feasibility study using the services of a professional fundraiser as part of the FY 2017 budget process. (Tim O’Brien 2nd). Motion carried 6-0.

**Project Updates**

Fundraiser/Awareness Event – “Guess Who’s Coming to Cocktails” – Denise Brinson reported the March 5 event was a success, raising approximately $20,000 for public art in Suwanee.

North Gwinnett Arts Association – Arts Center/Welcome Center – Vickie Johnson shared that there are two paid employees as well as volunteers staffing the center. Although the center is currently open to the public, a private grand-opening is scheduled for Saturday, April 30, beginning at 6:00 p.m. The official public grand-opening will be Saturday, May 16 in conjunction with North Gwinnett Arts Association’s event, “Arts in the Park.” Vickie also reported that classes are available, membership is growing, and the welcome center is stocked with Suwanee “SWAG.”

PAC Vacancies – Denise reported that commission member Tim O’Brien is relocating to Texas, which will leave two vacancies on the commission. She recommended Keith Nabb and Dallas Gillespie - there were no other recommendations offered. Both candidates will be invited to the next meeting to interview with the PAC. Denise will schedule.

Other

Photo Sharing - Lisa Winton expressed an interest in being able to share photos of art seen in travels with the PAC. Toni will research.

SculpTour - Denise shared the idea of a free event centered around a public unveiling of the upcoming “SculpTour” 2017 exhibit. This would be done as part of the idea to continually keep in touch with the arts patrons initiated with the “Guess Who’s Coming to Cocktails” event. She further reported that Explore Gwinnett is promoting “Artober” in October 2016. As a way to participate, there was discussion about PAC members leading walking and wine tours of the current “SculpTour” exhibit. Again, our patrons would be invited.

**Adjournment**

Vickie Johnson moved to adjourn at 7:28 p.m. (Cherie Heringer 2nd). Motion carried 6-0.

Minutes submitted by Toni Shrewsbury.