

MINUTES
CITY OF SUWANEE
PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION (PAC)
330 TOWN CENTER AVENUE, SUWANEE, GA 30024
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14, 2024
6:00 PM

Attending:

Commission members: Lisa Winton, Cherie Heringer, Debra Barnhart, Jason Smith, Keith Nabb, Sean Mulligan
(Absent- Carla Hoff)

Staff: Denise Brinson, Kim Towne

1. Call to Order

Lisa Winton called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

2. Approval of March 13, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Debra Barnhart moved to approve the March 2024 minutes as presented (Keith Nabb- 2nd). Motion carried 5-0.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

Sean Mulligan moved to adopt the agenda as presented (Keith Nabb- 2nd). Motion carried 5-0.

4. Developer Presentation

none

5. Art for All Campaign

- a. Public Art Fund Financial Report: Denise gave the financial report (attached) and fundraising update. She reported that the balance in the public art fund is currently \$860,000 cash available. She reported that the Art for All Capital Campaign fund held by the Community Foundation for Northeast Georgia is showing a current collected balance of almost \$586,000. The overall pledges exceeded the original goal and are currently over \$1.7 million.

Denise highlighted that over 80% of total donations were secured through major gifts, including Signature Piece families (\$15,000 each, 29 families so far); and major corporate gifts. Smaller individual gifts make up the balance. She covered each of the major gifts (\$50,000 and up), specifically those attached to “named” features in the park.

- b. First Look Event: Kim covered that the June 20 event was a success. Nearly 200 arts patrons and donors attended the “sneak peek” event at Town Center on Main. The food and beverage, hosted by Suwanee Circle, gave guests a preview of how the area will operate once fully opened. Guest speakers included Jay Dennard from Northside Hospital (presenting sponsor), Mayor Jimmy Burnette, Denise Brinson, and Randy Redner.

- c. Next Steps: Denise covered the proposed timeline for the major art pieces to be installed at Town Center on Main, broken into quarterly goals. The first major RFQ and project will be the railroad underpass, with other pieces to follow (timeline attached).

Lisa inquired about the overage and where it may be allocated. Denise explained some options: any additional monies could cover potential increasing costs of materials and art installations; funding additional art at Town Center on Main beyond those currently planned; or be used toward maintenance of pieces. Note: some of the money is actually part of planned giving that will be paid in installments over the next 2-3 years and is not immediately available.

Sean suggested that the City implement a maintenance schedule to include inspection, budgeting, etc.

Lisa suggested that PAC members write personal thank you messages (or notes) to large donors.

6. Veterans Memorial

The primary structure has been installed by the artist last month. The second round of plaque orders wrapped up today and the artist will return in October for the plaque installation. The concrete finishing for that area is in progress. The official dedication will be soon thereafter.

7. Railroad underpass project

Denise updated that CODAworx (a public arts “broker”) will assist in facilitating the RFQ process. They are experts in the field and will help us conduct a national call for artists, and to vet the artists, and produce a database of the candidates. Denise will be attending the CODAworx conference in Cincinnati to network.

8. Updates

a. SculpTour:

Denise announced that Explore Gwinnett will sponsor SculpTour over the 2-year program for \$40,000 (broken into two installments). We typically spend \$50,000 on the program [stipends to artists, purchasing some piece(s)]. New locations may include Buford Highway, the new park, etc. for a total of 20 pieces. Current stipend has been \$1750, but costs of materials and fabrication have gone up so we are proposing an increase to \$2000 per piece.

Lisa asked about the “People’s Choice” for the current tour and the PAC’s opinions on the options. Denise mentioned that PlayTown’s budget may cover the purchase of “Mommy” to be relocated to the playground.

Staff will check the current votes and update the PAC members. Some pieces may be too costly to purchase and two others have already been reclaimed by the artists, so some are off exhibit or out of reach.

- b. Public Art Master Plan: Denise mentioned that it may be time to revisit the Public Art Master Plan (once the city’s Strategic Plan is completed next year). The Strategic Plan will be a major undertaking and will inform the future direction of several goals, including public art.

- c. Suwanee Arts Center: Cherie (vice president on the board of the SAC) provided the update. They are seeking a treasurer; please forward any names to her. Quick updates include: membership over 250 artists, hosting 7 exhibits per year, hired a new part-time staff member, utilizing a new location at Suwanee UMC for classes, small renovations going on to move a wall in the current location, etc.

9. Other

- a. Denise invited PAC members to the council meeting later this month for a special recognition for Randy Redner, who served the city as our consultant and fundraiser for the final leg of the Art of All Campaign.
- b. Lisa brought up revisiting the idea of Greenville's "Mice on Main" as a whimsical idea to explore (perhaps "monkeying around" on the trails). Keith mentioned that the SYL may consider adding artwork to the Disc Golf course. Other ideas were also floated; these are good topics for a future PAC retreat.

10. Adjournment

Sean Mulligan moved to adjourn at 7:34 p.m. (Jason Smith- 2nd). Motion carried 6-0.

Minutes taken by Kim Towne