

PUBLIC ART AND DESIGN BOARD

July 28, 2015

4:30 PM, RMB Room 228

Present: Adam Cave, Laurent de Comarmond (Chair), Scott Hazard, Linda Noble, Bob Rankin (Vice-Chair), Kathleen Rieder

Absent: Susan Cannon

Staff: Shawsheen Baker, Senior Park Planner, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department
Jerry Bolas, Executive Director, Office of Raleigh Arts
Kim Curry-Evans, Public Art Coordinator, Office of Raleigh Arts
Eric Lamb, Manager, City of Raleigh Office of Transport and Planning
Jim Lavery, General Manager, Duke Energy Center for the Performing Arts
Scott Payne, Assistant Director, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department
Sandi Sullivan, Administrative Assistant, Office of Raleigh Arts

Guests: Jeff Lackey, Aesthetic Engineer, NC Department of Transportation

Call to Order

Chair Laurent de Comarmond welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM.

Approval of Minutes

Bob Rankin made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Linda Noble seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Action Items

Half Percent for Art (HPA) Allocations – Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources

Kim Curry-Evans reminded the board that allocations for new public art projects total \$174,813. Kim distributed a map that showed the location of all public art in the city, including current HPA projects, public art which pre-dates HPA, and sites for potential new projects. Shawsheen Baker, who oversees the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) projects for the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department, gave a presentation highlighting sites for potential new public art. She reported the following:

The park planners used specific selection criteria to identify sites they consider top candidates for new HPA projects: geographical location; relationship to existing public art; visibility and visitorship; greenway trails; and project contribution. They identified their five top locations as considerations for public art: Baileywick Park, Crabtree Creek West, John Chavis Memorial Park, Lake Johnson, and Walnut Creek Softball Complex.

Shawsheen reviewed highlights for each location, provided project construction budgets and HPA contributions from the 2014 bond, indicated when funds would become available, and provided projected completion dates. The planners identified Crabtree Creek West and Walnut Creek Softball Complex as top priorities. Lake Johnson is not a contributing project from the 2014 bond, but HPA was contributed as part of the 2007 bond.

A lengthy discussion ensued. Kim indicated that Greenways offer an excellent opportunity for public art. Scott Hazard asked why Crabtree Creek and Walnut Creek Softball Complex were designated as top choices by planning staff. Shawsheen explained that there are not many public art pieces in the Crabtree Creek area, so the location would help with equitable distribution. Also, the Greenway trails are a significant, popular feature in the city and planners felt public art would help to promote them. Walnut Creek Softball Complex has a regional draw for the city, as many tournaments are held at that

location. Kim noted that all the projects seem to be connected to the Greenways either directly or by proximity. She suggested that the entire HPA budget could be used for one public art project with a focus on the Greenways, and an emphasis on these particular neighborhood sites. Laurent de Comarmond added that public art could be incorporated into wayfinding on the trails. He was in favor of the Greenway idea, but added that the Community Centers have contributed the largest amounts of funding. He proposed the money be split into two projects, in order to include both the Community Centers and the Greenways. Shawsheen indicated that Chavis would provide a bigger draw due to historical context and its prominence in the downtown area.

Adam Cave made a motion to allocate \$100,000 to John Chavis Memorial Park and \$74,813 to Lake Johnson for new HPA public art projects. Bob Rankin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Duke Energy Center for the Performing Arts

Kim reminded everyone that we had \$27,000 allocated last year for public art for the Duke Energy Center. It was put on hold while the HVAC renovations were ongoing. This year we have been green-lighted to move forward with this project. General Manager Jim Lavery gave a presentation on the Center, including the history of the site and original building and the renovation plans. Kim indicated there will not be opportunity for a public art project inside the building. Kim and Jerry met with Center staff to brainstorm other ideas. They considered the concrete pedestal at the corner of Salisbury and South as a potential location for public art. It was suggested that the David Benson *Acorn* sculpture be relocated to the site as an anchor and a public artist be commissioned to create a light piece using the *Acorn* as a focal point. The sculpture will need to be moved due to the Moore Square renovations. This location could become a beacon for downtown and the Performing Arts Center. Dave Benson would be on the selection panel for selecting the public artist. Kim reported that the \$27,000 would serve as seed money for proposals/concepts and the budget for the project would eventually be increased. Bob Rankin recommended that Dave Benson play a key role in the process, if not design the lighting himself. Kim agreed to ask Dave if he would prefer to submit a proposal for the project rather than serve on the selection committee. Laurent reminded everyone that a member of the board will need to serve as chair of the selection committee. Linda Noble volunteered to chair the selection committee.

Kathleen Rieder asked what steps were being taken to protect and store artwork from the Municipal Art Collection during construction. Jim Lavery indicated that they have a plan in place and money in the budget to store the artwork. He agreed to provide Kim with more information regarding who would be handling removal and storage of the artwork.

Bob Rankin made a motion to approve the use of the \$27,000 for the improvements at Duke Energy Center for the Performing Arts. Kathleen Rieder seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Discussion Items

Capital Boulevard Aesthetic Enhancements

Eric Lamb and Jeff Lackey reported that the city is working with the NCDOT on enhancements and aesthetic treatments for construction on the Wade Avenue and Peace Street bridges over Capital Boulevard. Jeff presented proposed initial design ideas and spoke about what inspired them, namely the art deco support structures, architecture of mills in the area, and trains. Included in the design concepts were areas of the structure designated as potential sites for the future addition of public art. An effort was made to tie the designs to the natural environment and native foliage. The budget for the project is not yet set, but ideally they would like to bring a public artist to the team. Plans need to be completed by early 2016 and construction will commence in the fall of that year. The board provided feedback and was enthusiastic about the project.

Updates

Current CIP Public Art Projects

Kim reported that the artist for the sculptures on City Plaza, Patrick McDonald, has unexpectedly passed away due to complications from a fall. We were looking to extend the loan on those sculptures. Kim will now be working with his widow.

CORAC Report

None

Public Comments

None

Other Business

Kim proposed moving the next PADB meeting from November 24 to November 17, since the 24th falls during Thanksgiving week. The Board was in agreement.

Kim introduced Nancy Novell, the new Chair of The Raleigh Arts Commission.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:14 PM.