

PUBLIC ART COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Date of Meeting: Wednesday, June 12, 2019 at 4:00pm
Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 14, 2019 at 4:00pm

Present: (RC) Robert Carlson, (HB) Holly Barrett, (PK) Paul Konchagulian, (MM) Mike Markey, Rachel Mindrup (RM), (KP) Kristin Pluhacek

Absent: (KC) Karin Campbell, (KE) Kris Engler, (SR) Sara Rogers

Staff Present: (MR) Marquette Ryan, (KS) Katie Swanson

CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by (HB).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Minutes approved, (HB) moved, (PK) seconded.

Omar the Blue Troll - Bob Kerrey Bridge – Visit Omaha Project

- a) Deb Ward with Visit Omaha presented in front of the PAC with the Omar (Omaha Metro Area River) the Troll Statue, a Visit Omaha Project
- b) This project has been in the works for 3 years. The Bob Kerrey Bridge is the third most visited attraction in Omaha and Visit Omaha wanted to find a way to bring even more people to the bridge
- c) The sculpture includes a bronze statue of Omar the Troll, a colored concrete house that the troll sits on, and a rock next to the house with some sort of message etched into the rock from Omar– John Liba is the artist
- d) The statue is strategically placed under the bridge so that when visitors take photos with him, it will showcase the curve of the Bob Kerrey Bridge
- e) Visit Omaha also has Omar the Troll books, snapchat filters, interactive animated videos, and spoke of the possibility of a future female troll on the Council Bluffs side is an idea
- f) In order to pay for the project, Visit Omaha applied for a grant through Douglas County
- g) They are planning to unveil Omar Wednesday, September 4th at 2:30pm
- h) The PAC unanimously voted approval

BFF(Benson First Friday) – Biennial Art Banner Project

- a) Maggie Weber with the BFF group presented in front of the PAC
- b) This is the 2nd time BFF has partnered with the Benson Improvement District to work with different artist submissions for (16) different designs, 32 street banners in total
- c) All digital submissions close on June 15th and the jury is meeting Tuesday, June 18th from 6-7pm , Rachel Mindrup from our PAC board is going to cover the jury spot for the PAC

- d) Permission from OPPD has been granted

Grant Application through Amplify Arts

- a) Maggie Weber also informed the PAC of a grant application through the National Endowment for the Arts that would provide 35-40k in grants for individual artists
- b) Currently, Amplify Arts awards 45k in grants to artists annually, distributing them through generator grants, public impact grants, artist support grants, and an essential fund. They are looking to expand their programs and add a new grant
- c) In order to completely fill out the grant application, Maggie needed backing from the City of Omaha to finalize the process
- d) (HB) said we could give a letter of support from the PAC in recognizing their efforts, but the Mayor's office would probably need to complete or give the official approval and backing from the City

HDR O! Art Piece – Updates on Location

- a) (SR) and (HB) gave several locations to HDR to move this piece
- b) HDR may be moving the piece indoors, but it is now in their hands to decide after recommendations given by the PAC

RESTORATION & OTHER PROJECTS

- a) Pencil was brought up in the meeting as still needing a location
 - a. The artist's family would have liked to have kept it downtown, but there is struggle to find a good location for it
- b) Frankie's Pain is still down at the mall. It was recommended that there might be in indoor sight like a library that would take it
 - a. The Hilton does not have interest in taking it

RIVERFRONT ART RELOCATION UPDATES

- a) All benches a part of the Take A Seat! Project have been moved to Flanagan Lake where they were dispersed around the walking trail
- b) All items were refurbished and will be placed in July
- c) Treehouse was installed at Flanagan along with O'mage
- d) Mangonell II was placed at One Pacific Place Park
- e) The Marine Medallion was the first Memorial to be moved to Memorial Park from Heartland – the Airborne Monument and the WWII Memorial will be next
- f) The Hanscom Park lagoon is getting deepened from the CSO Project and Thistle and Time Capsule will go in the lagoon

PUBLIC ART WEBSITE

- a) Visit Omaha expressed interest in hosting the PAC website
- b) (HB) will meet with Deb Ward about the website

BUDGET

- a) Still have 10k to spend for this year

PUBLIC ART CRITERIA COMMITTEE UPDATES

- a) RFP Update – (HB) and (KP) will schedule a mini retreat to discuss
- b) O! Wo!ven – was redone by UNO art students, (RC) suggested renaming to ReWo!ven
 - a. (MR) will send (RC) the plaque specs to pass on

OTHER BUSINESS

- a) (HB) Kent Bellow Silos aren't being mowed
 - a. (MR) will reach out to Josh in Park Maintenance to see if they can mow them
- b) Briefly touched on an idea/project with the DID to brighten up alley doors

ADJOURN