

Public Arts Commission of Oxford
Virtual Meeting
Tuesday, October 13, 2020, 4:30PM

Minutes of the meeting

Present: Steve Sullivan, Chair; Edna Southard, Vice-Chair; Robert Benson, Recording Secretary; Stefanie Hilles, Joe Prescher, Carole Katz, Norm Krumpe

1. The virtual meeting of the Public Arts Commission of Oxford (PACO) was **called to order by Chair Steve Sullivan at 4:42PM.**

2. The **Agenda** was approved after Chair Steve Sullivan requested an addition to New Business.

3. The **Minutes** of the September 11, 2020 PACO meeting were approved.

4. Old Business

A. Update on Mural

Steve Sullivan and Edna Southard explained that the City Council and administration have been preoccupied with issues concerning the response to the pandemic by the City and the University. They assured the PACO members that the mural would be removed from Kim Peterka's building before the Rodbro company begins building on the empty lot next door.

It was suggested that the mural might be placed on the south or alley side of the Peterka building, facing the parking lot of the Municipal Building, Negotiations are in process.

Carole Katz asked if we could get a decision from the City before we reach a crisis point with the mural.

Edna Southard said that we need a general clarification regarding what happens when we make a recommendation to the Council. Some commissions have no Council members appointed to them, even though we do with Edna Southard.

Steve Sullivan said he thought that this issue should be set aside for the time being.

B1. Review the Various Calls for Art and Their Distribution

Stefanie asked when PACO would confer with the Oxford Police Department (OPD) to determine the location of the bike rack proposed for their property.

Edna agreed to set up a meeting between the OPD, the City and PACO.

It was pointed out that an artistically designed bike rack relates to Council's goals for transportation (reducing automobile traffic). It could also be used as evidence that public art is a morale booster.

Stefanie stated that she is ready to share her research in any convenient way.

Stefanie and Norm Krumpe suggested a park bench meeting with the City Manager and the Chief of Police.

Art for the Aquatic Center

Steve Sullivan reported that Casey Wooddell wants to hold off, may want or need to re-distribute the funds

B2. Stefanie and Norm's list of places/people

Stefanie and Norm have created a list of places and people who should be contacted for public art submissions. Personal connections are more valuable in this regard than institutional contacts.

Joe Prescher stated that he thought PACO needs to be much more proactive in this regard.

Bob Benson agreed and said there needs to be much more personal outreach by PACO members to artists in the community. This would also serve the purposes of putting a selection committee together.

C. Update on Insurance

Steve Sullivan has been in discussion with OCAC. He and Caroline Crosswell began discussing a way of covering public art through OCAC's insurance policy. Steve made a formal proposal, Caroline replied positively and sent it to her insurance agent who accepted it.

Covers any art we place on public property for temporary exhibits. If the City accessions a work of art, the City must provide the insurance coverage.

However, Caroline has resigned as Director of OCAC, so who else at OCAC knows about this agreement? We absolutely must get some sort of documentation from Caroline or the OCAC Board.

5. New Business

A. Discuss Catalog

Steve Sullivan created a spreadsheet to serve as an accessions catalog for PACO, based on Natural History and Art specific databases. It can be downloaded as a CSL file and is mappable into other kinds of spreadsheets.

Both loans and accessions are covered, loans serving the purposes of creating a history of our activities. Separate columns and loan numbers for each with loan numbers differing from standard accession numbers.

The McWilliams sculpture in the Community Park, for example, would be listed as an accession. Ella Cope's mural would be listed as a loan until it is acquired by the City. Then it gets an accession number. The animal sculptures in the Uptown Park West would be listed as accessions.

Edna stated that HAPC did something similar for buildings in the Uptown Historic District and it is accessible to the public. The PACO database should also be made accessible to the public.

All PACO commissioners should look at and study the catalog. In the future, there will be no deletions, only additions and possibly corrections.

B. Progress on the CARES Act initiatives and potential PACO roles

Jessica Greene sent out a request for suggestions about how to generate works of art that would allow Oxford to tap into the available funds.

The deadline for expenditures is December 31.

Steve Sullivan attended a meeting recently with Jessica Greene (Assistant City Manager), Seth Cropenbaker (Assistant to the City Manager). The City expressed interest in mural and light-based interactive sculptures. This could include an electronic "piano" played by walking on the keys, various light manipulations. An outdoor projector could run as high as \$30,000 or could be rented for about \$4500 a month.

The dates for execution are based on the need to spend and consume the funding for 8 weeks after Thanksgiving. This would include preparing surfaces of buildings for murals or for projections.

All this could work with DORA (without the student population in town) and stimulate locate economic activity uptown.

Steve suggested that murals could be painted on 4'x 8' plywood panels with a budget of \$400 per panel to cover both material costs and artist honorarium. It would be up to the City to mount the panels securely.

PACO can help this effort by doing a call for artists. Wording for such a call should be cleared with Jessica Greene or Seth Cropenbaker for standardization.

Jurying will be at two levels: a first filter that Stefanie and Carole will manage; and a second or final filter, to be set up after the first filter is done.

C. Mission and Vision Statements

We need to look at the final founding documents from the City. We should see drafts of additional documents in GoogleDocs. Steve Sullivan edited these into a mission and a vision statement. We will discuss them at our November meeting.

Adjournment: The meeting was **adjourned at 6:05PM**

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Benson, Recording Secretary