

Public Arts Commission of Oxford
Tuesday, January 8, 2019, 4:30PM
Oxford Municipal Building
First Floor Conference Room

Minutes of the meeting

Present:

Edna Southard, Council Rep., Vice-chair	Stefanie Hilles
Robert Benson, Recording Secretary	Elizabeth Huddleston
Steve Sullivan, Chair	Norm Krumpe

Absent:

Joe Prescher

Guests:

Casey Wooddell, Director, Oxford Parks and Recreation
Jessica Greene, Executive Director, Enjoy Oxford

The meeting of the Public Arts Council of Oxford (PACO) was **called to order by Chair Steve Sullivan at 4:31PM.**

The **Agenda** was approved.

The **Minutes of the December 6 meeting** were approved as received.

Old Business

- A. Market Archway** – no update.
- B. Ella Cope's project** – no update
- C. Process and Protocols for Project Approval**
The discussion of process and protocols was delayed until after New Business was completed.

New Business

- A.** Casey Wooddell met with PACO in order to share the desire and support of Parks and Recreation to have PACO help place works of art in various places at the new Oxford Aquatic Center (OAC), which will open on May 25, 2019.

Mr. Wooddell passed out architectural drawings (plans and elevations) and some other materials to help PACO understand the lay-out and configuration of the OAC. He told the commission that he would like to see works of art in several locations.

He explained that although there was no money in the construction budget for works of art, there would be a certain amount of funding available through the general appeal of the Oxford Community Foundation (OCF) for donations to the OAC. PACO members asked if it would be possible for PACO to raise funds itself by

soliciting donations and gifts or by becoming co-authors of grants. Mr. Woodell said he was very interested in co-operating with PACO in the effort to fund commissioned art for the OAC.

The commission and Mr. Woodell discussed numerous locations where art might be placed. These included: mural art on both inside and outside the buildings, functional art in such objects as bike racks and benches, free-standing sculpture(s), and a functional water feature or fountain for children to enjoy in the children's pool.

It was decided that Mr. Woodell should be a part of future PACO discussions and especially of decision-making about works of art that would be commissioned.

Edna Southard reminded the commission that whatever it does, it need to have the City Council approve it to be sure it has municipal blessing on its work.

PACO decided that it needed to draft a Request for Proposals (RFP) as soon as possible in order to send it to the City Council for approval. Recording Secretary Benson volunteered to write an initial draft of an RFP which would then be reviewed, revised and/or refined by the members of the commission. Benson promised to send such a draft out as soon as possible.

- B.** Jessica Greene presented an excellent report on the financial costs and time output by her staff required for the winter 2018 window art project that she organized with PACO approval and support. The dollar amount required for the project amounted to \$6,950.00 while her staff spent approximately 80 hours dealing with business owners, making arrangements with artists to open buildings and then making sure windows were clean after removal of the paintings.

Ms. Greene then asked whether PACO was willing to repeat the window art project this year and whether there should be any changes in the conditions placed on the art produced. After discussing such possibilities as opening up the subject matter and production to include other materials, use of battery-operated lighting, leaving the subject matter up to the proposing artists, PACO and Ms. Greene came to consensus that there were too many risks in changing the parameters already used.

The decision was made that there would be two different projects established: the first would have a water theme and would be mounted more or less in celebration of the new OAC. The paintings would be finished for a May 1 to July 4 display. The second project would be to "create a scene" (perhaps with a fall or winter theme) to be finished and viewable from Mid-November to mid-February.

This would mean a timetable with jurying for the water theme at the PACO April meeting; and for the fall/winter theme at the PACO September meeting.

PACO requested that the entries be submitted for jurying anonymously but with the submission of one piece of prior work.

PACO thanked Jessica Greene for her energy, enthusiasm, and creativity in the window painting projects.

After the New Business was completed, PACO once again discussed the RFP that would be written for the OAC works of art and finalized the requests to include:

- bike racks outside the buildings and pool areas
- benches for the open areas around the pools
- mosaic wall art for the entrance area
- mural art in a variety of mediums for other wall surfaces
- a water feature/fountain specifically for the use of children in the children's pool
- one or more free-standing sculptures for either the grounds or the open areas around the pools or both

A round table discussion completed the meeting. In it, PACO decided that it needed to take on some future projects for art installations that would include the Municipal Building, the Police Building, and the Court House Building.

Adjournment The meeting was adjourned at 5:53PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Benson, Recording Secretary