

SIOUX FALLS VISUAL ARTS COMMISSION
Tuesday, August 15, 2023, 9:00 a.m.
City Center, 231 N. Dakota Ave., Conference Room #208

MEETING ASSISTANCE: UPON REQUEST, ACCOMMODATIONS FOR MEETINGS WILL BE PROVIDED FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES. PLEASE CONTACT THE HUMAN RELATIONS OFFICE, FIRST FLOOR, CITY HALL, 224 WEST 9TH STREET, SIOUX FALLS, SD AT 367-8745 (VOICE) OR 367-7039 (TDD) 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING.

Chair: Joe Schaeffer
Vice Chair: Kellen Boice
Staff Liaison: Diane deKoeyer

Meeting Minutes

ITEM 1. Call to Order and Quorum Determination:

Chairperson Joe Schaeffer called the meeting to order at 9:02am.

Member Participants: Joe Schaeffer, Kellen Boice, James Zaijcek, and Jennifer Hoelsing were in attendance and Mike Jamison joined via WebEx. Wyatt Dickson was absent (excused).

Guests in attendance: Elana Brown from RLA, Lisa Myers from Bronze Age and Walter Portz, Artist.

Staff in attendance: Jeff Eckhoff, Kevin Smith and Diane deKoeyer from Planning & Development Services.

ITEM 2. Welcome Members and Guests:

ITEM 3. Approval of Regular Agenda:

Commissioner Hoelsing made the motion to approve the regular agenda and Commissioner Zaijcek seconded the motion. The agenda was approved unanimously.

ITEM 4. Approval of Minutes from July 18, 2023, Regular Meeting:

Commissioner Zaijcek made the motion to approve the minutes and Commissioner Jamison seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

ITEM 5. Public Input on Non-Agenda Items (5 minutes):

None

ITEM 6. Unfinished Business:

a) **We Can Do It! Sculpture Dedication**

The dedication is scheduled for Tuesday, September 19 from 8:00am to 9:00am at EmBe. Diane will notify Susanne at EmBe that the VAC will attend and ask how we can further participate in the event. Diane will also invite the artists, Lee Leuning and Sherri Treeby from Aberdeen. Following the dedication, the VAC will meet at 9:00am

for its regular monthly meeting. The VAC meeting will be held at the Carnegie Multi-purpose room due to its proximity to EmBe.

ITEM 7. New Business:

a) RLA City Owned Artwork Review

Elana reviewed RLA's service to provide artists reviews for future sculptures and how the elements effect various materials. This information could be used in determining what artwork is appropriate for the city's art collection to minimize maintenance costs.

Elana further reviewed the condition of artwork on their visit this past week. Christina commented that given the harsh winter conditions this past year, the collection was in better condition than expected. It didn't appear that sculptures were affected by salts used at sidewalks and streets. It also helps that as Bronze Age has assisted with repairs and maintenance that elevating the artwork has reduced the damage.

Elana mentioned that most of the artwork they have reviewed that is ten years or older have lacquer that is failing. One in particular, is the *Anchor* at Sherman Park. Others include *For Which It Stands* and the *Farmer*.

Bronze Age has also been working with RLA and Lisa provided pricing for a few items they will perform repair and maintenance on. Diane will review their quotes and provide an update to the commission.

RLA will have their full Maintenance Report from their inspection to the city by the end of the year.

b) Public Art Update

Walter Portz was in attendance to discuss his proposed artwork for the 10th Street Parking Ramp. Walter thanked the commission for allowing him to attend the meeting to discuss the mural. He explained how he entered into the conversation with Shawn Pritchett and Vernon Brown when he ran into them. Vernon acknowledged the mural he had just completed at the Levitt and how he would love to get something up on the parking ramp wall. Kellen had approached him last fall about submitting artwork for the Call for Art, but Walter and his family were in the process of moving to North Carolina and he was busy with the Skate Park and unable to respond to the request at that time.

Shawn expressed interest in seeing what Walter would envision for the wall and presented several concepts to the city for review. Walter described some of the elements that are included in the concept as nods to the spires of the Cathedral, Levitt with the curvature of the roof, the clock tower at the Old Courthouse Museum and to the Arts with the image of Steve Thomas' *Sea Dream* sculpture. He wanted to provide something bright and colorful that would catch people's attention as they drive by. Walter also has interest in creating a pop-up skate park in front of the mural and will talk with Parks & Recreation regarding it. Walter stated his desire to paint the unattractive gray wall that exists and was excited to propose a modern, colorful design that would be appealing to all.

Walter presented the image of the artwork and passed it around to commissioners for review.

Commissioner Schaffer asked who Walter has been working with on the proposal and responded that he began working with city staff, Shawn Pritchett, Matt Nelson Diane deKoeper, Mayor TenHaken and the donor in mid-July.

Chair Schaeffer asked commissioners what their general thoughts or critiques were of the artwork. Commissioner Zajicek asked who the donor was, and Diane responded that the details were still being worked out and the announcement would be made soon. Chair Schaeffer said that he thought the aesthetic and color palette of the artwork was quite nice but had some concerns about the completion of the project due to its large size. Walter stated that it would take three to four weeks, twelve hours a day. He further explained the process of painting and how many coats could be necessary.

Commissioner Hoelsing stated that as a former Arts Administrator that she would leave the critique of the artwork to her colleagues, but that she appreciates Walter bringing artwork to the space.

Commissioner Schaeffer stated his concern in the process that brought us to this point. He feels that the previous process with the Arts Council allowed artists to submit qualifications and an opportunity to be selected for the mural commission. His concern is not the work itself, but the process in which the VAC was not included until now. Commissioner Schaeffer felt that if staff would have reached out to the commission, we could have worked together.

Director Eckhoff reviewed the initial process where the city used an RFP a couple years ago, but the artwork proposed was determined to be signage, so it did not move forward. The second approach was a Call for Art with the Arts Council last fall where artists submitted their qualifications and artwork that was juried by the VAC. With that recommendation the city felt that the selected piece was potentially controversial and given the history of the former development the city wasn't comfortable moving forward with it. Director Eckhoff reviewed the mission of the VAC to review artwork when an artist submits a concept on public property which is what Walter has done for the parking ramp. He has a concept and proposed funding and is now looking for the VAC's recommendation to determine if it is appropriate at this location. Walter has worked with the city and has now brought it to the VAC for their recommendation. Art can come to the city in various ways and in this process, it came directly from the artist.

Commissioner Boice asked if Walter was getting paid for his work. He confirmed that he will be paid through an individual donor, but details are still being finalized. Commissioner Boice voiced her concern about artists not being paid, similar to what he did with the mural by the Levitt. Walter clarified that he asked in lieu of payment that a donation be made to the Skate Park. Walter's desire is to provide attractive artwork to the city.

Chair Schaeffer further stated that for the VAC to approve this artwork he also feels that they would be approving the process in which this came about.

Commissioner Jamison was asked his opinion. He responded that this process is different than what has been done in the past, but the goal is to get artwork up on the ramp. The common theme is that the artwork is appropriate and although the process changes, he is responding to the question of approval at this time.

Walter thanked the VAC for the lively conversation. Commissioner Boice asked if they are being asked to support the artwork exactly as it's shown. She said her concern was that the elements could be simplified and asked if the colors were supposed to compliment the Sioux Falls flag. Walter responded that it has a mid-century vibe to it and could try to simplify it.

Commissioner Zajicek asked that given the number of questions being discussed if the VAC could table their recommendation until the September meeting. Staff responded that they would like approval as soon as possible. Commissioner Schaeffer mentioned that due to the time of year, he assumed that Walter would want to begin on the project as soon as possible.

Commissioner Schaffer made the motion to approve the art presented for the parking ramp. Commissioner Hoelsing seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

c) Arts Commission Review

Commissioner Schaffer summarized the meeting he had with Director Eckhoff the week prior and the future structure of the VAC. Director Eckhoff explained that the VAC would be committee under the Arts Commission, similar to how the Active Transportation Board has several committees under it that include the PATH committee, bike Committee, etc. Similarly, the Arts Commission would represent the performing arts, visual arts, media arts, etc. This was the recommendation of the Task Force when they submitted their report. In lieu of creating another board, the ordinance for the VAC would be modified to identify it as the Arts Commission and the VAC would be identified as a committee.

The first reading of the budget that includes the Arts Coordinator and further identify the Arts Commission is scheduled for September 5th and the second reading will be September 12. Commissioner Hoelsing asked if the VAC's charge would remain the same other than going from a commission to a committee. Director Eckhoff confirmed that it would essentially be the same. All the work the VAC is working on now, would continue with the Arts Coordinator would under the commission as a committee.

d) Sioux Falls Arts Council Update

Due to time constraints, Commissioner Boice was not able to provide an update. She asked if she could send an email asking for help from the VAC for the Arts Council event at the end of the month. Diane said Kellen should send her the information and she would distribute it to the commissioners for their response.

ITEM 8. Announcements:

- a) **Next regular meeting:** 9:00am September 19, Carnegie Town Hall multi-purpose room.
- b) **We Can Do It sculpture dedication at EmB:** Tuesday September 19 at 8:00 am. Further details will be provided.
- c) **Working session meeting:** 5:30pm Wednesday, September 13 at Start-Up Sioux Falls. Review of policy information provided at the last meeting for discussion.

ITEM 9. Adjournment:

- a) The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:04 am.