

# Public Art Advisory Committee Meeting

September 8, 2020

12:00 p.m.

Zoom Meeting



## MINUTES

### Attendance

	Voting Members	Ex Officio	Staff	
P	Aaron Kohn	Johnetta Dexter	P Tim Robinson (city council)	P Shelli Kerr
P	Dylan Turk	Lauren Haynes	P Kalene Griffith (VB)	P David Wright
P	Jerris Palmer	Steven Baker		P Danielle Semsrott
P	Tom Hoehn			

Guests: Danielle Hatch and Traci Rae Manos, artists for Guide, these, my hands proposal  
Emily Krol, Horticulturalist for the City of Bentonville

**1. Call Meeting to Order.** Chairperson Tom Hoehn called the meeting to order.

**2. Minutes from August 11 meeting.** Tom asked for approval of the minutes.

Tom made a motion to approve the August 11, 2020 minutes. Dylan seconded the motion. All in favor; motion passed 4-0.

**3. Welcome new member Aaron Kohn.** Shelli introduced the PAAC's newest appointment, Aaron Kohn. Aaron graduated from Columbia University and then moved to Johannesburg to open a museum and work on public art programs. He has worked on public art commissions, assisted in building a contemporary design museum, and has consulted to art institutions. The committee members and guests introduced themselves.

Tom asked to move the 28<sup>th</sup> Street Park presentation from David to earlier in the agenda due to a scheduling conflict. See Item #9 below.

### PROPOSALS

**4. None received.**

### OLD BUSINESS

**5. Guide These My Hands.** Shelli reported she had met with the artists and Jerome Todd from Public Works on site to discuss the attachment. The artists were in the Zoom meeting to answer questions and shared the schematic of what it would look like on the building. The artists indicated the material would be a nylon water resistance fabric designed for outdoor use adequate for the intended one-year display period. The poem will start in the right hand corner, going right to left and upward. They have discussed accessibility plans that include making the poem available on the wall near the installation, translating to Spanish and Braille, and providing a QR link and video link of someone reading the poem. The artists are excited about this display site because it is an unexpected location.

Tom asked the artists how they came about collaborating on this project. Danielle said they met at the Artist 360 program. They started exploring stories of native Arkansas women and wanted to offer something different, tactile and interactive. Traci indicated her background is in songwriting and was looking for another way to get poetry off the page. This is their first time to collaborate on a project.

Tim asked for clarification of the building and Shelli reported it is not City Hall but the Community Development Building. He asked if future expansion of that building would impact the artwork. Shelli thought that because the display is for only a year, it should not conflict with any future expansion plans and that work on the building now is interior only.

Aaron likes this display being on a public building. He suggests that the committee stay involved to make sure the artwork is always displaying properly and being well-maintained.

Dylan made a motion to recommend approval of the proposal. Jerris seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion passed 4-0.

The committee indicated their reasons for approval as being a new medium that pushes the boundaries of current installations; that it represents diversity and inclusion, and is kinetic and will draw people in to learn more.

- 6. Open Heart Landscape Plans.** Danielle and Emily Krol, horticulturalist for the city, discussed the draft landscape plans. A sketch was shared on-screen. Emily reported that the plants selected are drought tolerant and represent or reflect love and hearts. Dylan likes the connection with the theme of the artwork and feels it meets the goals for the installation.

Danielle mentioned leaving pathways from the edge of the roundabout to the artwork and Emily suggested using Thyme which can be walked on. There was some discussion of whether or not we want to encourage people into the roundabout. Shelli will speak with Transportation and Streets about how best to approach that issue.

Emily reported that there is a maintenance plan needed and that, if approved by her supervisor, she might be able to dedicate some time to maintenance. Danielle confirmed that Tree and Landscape Committee have agreed to fund the purchase and installation of the plant materials if a maintenance plan can be agreed upon. Danielle has received some interest from the Master Naturalists. Jerris suggested clubs at the nearby junior high might also be a good source of volunteers for maintenance.

## NEW BUSINESS

- 7. No new business.**

## PROJECT UPDATES

- 8. Almost Forgotten Osage Prairie.** Danielle discussed the revised location for the installation to avoid the airport runway zone. A map was shared on-screen showing the previous and new location. The artist is happy with the new site which has a slight slope which leads to natural landscaping in the park. The item will be on the next city council meeting and, if approved, installed later this year.

- 9. 28<sup>th</sup> Street Park.** David shared his screen to show plans for the 28<sup>th</sup> Street Park to be bid later this year and completed in 2022. The site is at the future intersection of SW Bright Rd and SW 28<sup>th</sup> Street, both roads to be completed in the coming years. The park has cricket facilities to accommodate the currently 20 to 25 adult cricket teams now using baseball diamonds that aren't really designed for cricket. It has climbing apparatus and a splash park.

He would like to let the PAAC take the lead on identifying artwork that promotes the city's cultural diversity and Bentonville being a welcoming and inclusive community. David shared a few locations that might work well and indicated he would provide the committee with those dimensions. Dylan asked if David had been working with anyone in the Indian community to develop the fields. David said he would pass on a few names so they can be included in the discussions of public art for the park.

The park is being funded with impact and capacity fees. The funding for the public art is yet to be determined, but may include park funding or PAAC funding or a combination of other sources.

#### OTHER

**10. Consider ex-officio positions.** Shelli presented for consideration that Crystal Bridges and The Momentary have ex-officio positions on the PAAC so there is always representation from these organizations. Several members were concerned that ex-officio are not voting members and if the institutions don't change up their representatives, it could get stagnant. Aaron suggested the institutions may need to find a way to coordinate with the committee. The committee did not wish to pursue adding these ex-officio positions.

Dylan and Jerris had to leave the Zoom meeting and a quorum was no longer present.

**11. Open Heart video.** Shelli encouraged members to watch the video produced by Bentonville Public Schools on the installation of Open Heart. She will send out a link.

**12. Confederate Statue.** Tom reported that the statue was removed peacefully, respectfully and safe. He says it is a credit to the community in how well they deal with a difficult issue.

**13. Adjournment.** With no quorum present, Tom adjourned the meeting at 1:03 p.m.