



Public Arts Commission of Oxford

MINUTES:

Date: January 11, 2022

Location: North Parlor, Oxford Community Arts Center

Time of Meeting: 4:30PM

Members present: Robert Benson, Carole Katz, Norm Krumpe, Steve Sullivan, Amber Franklin
(Council Liaison)

Staff present: Jessica Greene, Assistant City Manager

Approval of Agenda

Motion: Norm Krumpe

2nd: Carole Katz

Vote: unanimous

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Carole Katz

2nd: Steve Sullivan

Vote: unanimous

Old Business:

Old Business was delayed in order to take advantage of Jessica Greene's presence at the meeting.

New Business:

- **City Municipal Building Art Project**

Jessica Greene requested that PACO purchase a hanging system for art to be displayed in the Municipal Building. The system, recommended by Mike Dreisbach, City Service Director, includes metal railings to be mounted on the desired walls close to the ceiling. Clear hangers suspended from the railings will support art pieces. This would permit one or two exhibits of art to be mounted every year.



Jessica recounted the history of this project that began when she became Assistant City Manager in 2019 and initiated a Call for Art. She established a relationship with OCAC (Caroline Crosswell was then Director), created a formal Call for Art and an official submission form. All of this was derailed by the advent of COVID-19.

Jessica and Steve Sullivan updated the relationship with OCAC after Heidi Schiller became Director of OCAC. This is especially important because the art would be insured through OCAC with PACO being the selection jury for any objects submitted in response to a Call for Art from the City.

Steve noted that although Caroline Crosswell had made the arrangement about OCAC insurance protecting art hung in the Municipal Building, no record of this was passed on to Heidi Schiller. He noted that we need to know what the agreement is so we can pass it on to succeeding members of PACO.

Jessica offered to fund the Call for Art and provided a sample of the sheet she had originally devised for the call. She proposed that PACO would then fund the hanging system for a display space of about 85 linear feet.

Amber Franklin asked why no artist stipends had been funded by either the City or PACO. Jessica and Steve Sullivan explained that we would not be asking artists to generate new art but expected artists to submit finished work of perhaps no more than 3 years old.

Norm Krumpe made a motion for PACO to designate \$900 of its annual \$5000 budget to pay for the hanging system and its installation by Mike Dresibach. Carole Katz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Jessica proposed that the Call for Art would go out from her office the week of January 17, 2022.

Carole Katz noted that the distribution of call materials in order to reach artists who would submit is a problem for both PACO and OCAC. Norm has a list of contacts which he will give to Jessica; but PACO needs to consider how to improve outreach.

Jessica also suggested that PACO needs to figure out how to spend its annual budget of \$5000 effectively since remainders are not carried forward to the following year. She also suggested that we establish a PACO fund with the Oxford Community Foundation. This was done by the city to raise money for the OATS project and certainly should be done by PACO. To do this, we need to meet with Betsy Hope, Executive Director. Carole Katz offered to do the graphics for any fund we would set up with OCF.

Additionally, Jessica suggested that PACO should discuss how to identify private partners for public art and should probably create a list of all possible locations for public art.

Steve volunteered to write up this proposal for discussion at the February meeting.



- **City Manager's Intern PACO Liaison**

Jessica Greene noted that Waverly Dooling would continue as our liaison to the City Manager's office but that we will need to identify a new intern for the coming academic year.

- **PACO membership and recruitment**

This topic is considered critical by the members of PACO and will be addressed at the February meeting.

- **League of Women Voters proposed mural**

LOWV wants to commission a mural celebrating the 19th amendment granting women the right to vote. This creates a complicated problem since this would be art generated by an outside group, probably displayed on private property, and one by an artist that LOWV has already identified. We will need to meet with Kathy McMahon Klosterman to discuss these issues, who was willing to meet with us at our December meeting that was cancelled.

Returning to New Business

- **Status of Civil Rights mural**

Ella Cope asked Dave DeWitt to hang the mural on the Municipal Building. He agreed to do it but has been too busy with this own business to get around to it. The question was raised if someone else could be engaged to hang the mural. Jessica Greene suggested that a letter to the City Manager from PACO could request that the City Manager pay a contractor to hang the mural. Or a formal recommendation from PACO to the City Council could recommend that Council ask the Service Director to get the mural hung. Council would decide to act on this or could ignore it.

Steve agreed to write a text to the City Council, to be supplied later.

Bob Benson made a motion to accept this text and forward it to the City Council. Norm Krumpke seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Update on Strategic Plan**

Jessica explained changes in the City's approach to developing the Strategic Plan. Although PACO had provided what Jessica had requested and we have no more responsibility for new information or ideas, we will need to wait until the final public meeting is planned and a date set for it.

- **Bike Rack Status**

No news.



Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 8, 2022 with location TBD.

Adjournment: 5:38pm

Motion: Bob Benson

2nd: Norm Krumpe

Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Benson, Secretary