

MINUTES
ARTS AND HUMANITIES ADVISORY BOARD
CITY COMMISSION ROOM
1101 POYNTZ AVE
MANHATTAN, KS
SEPTEMBER 14, 2022
11:45 AM

Present: Chair Doug Barrett Jr., Hilary Wahlen, Taylor McFall, Luke Townsend (Virtual), Karen McCulloh, Charlene Brownson, and Mike McCarty

Absent: Michaeline Chance-Reay and Sujatha Prakash

Staff Present: Jared Wasinger, Kristen Dolf (Virtual)

A. Call to Order

Chair Doug Barrett Jr. called the meeting to order at 11:49 a.m.

B. Consider approval of the Minutes for the meeting held on August 10, 2022.

Karen McCulloh made a motion to approve the minutes. Hilary Wahlen seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Public Comment

No public comment received.

Hilary Wahlen made a motion to consider item F(1)(b) following public comment to accommodate those present for the item, followed by item F(1)(a). Karen McCulloh seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Old Business

1. **Art Inventory Update** – Charlene Brownson shared with the group that the GMCF is working on a site to list the Art in Manhattan. Kendra Kuhlman, Director of Program Development at GMCF, is the main contact working on the project. Charlene recommended working together with GMCF rather than do similar work separate from them.

Grant Opportunities and Potential Projects – Chair Barrett Jr. asked Jared Wasinger to provide a summary of the City Commission Work Session related to Advisory Boards and Committees. Wasinger explained it seemed a majority of City Commissioners voiced support for dissolution of AHAB. However, no action was taken by the City Commission, and the Board could continue to meet regularly and continue business. Taylor McFall recommended writing to the City Commission on the value AHAB brings. Hilary Wahlen indicated she would as well. Other members agreed to the approach of individually reaching out to the City Commission. Luke Townsend recommended through articulate their efforts could not be accomplished

as a private group separate from the City, and the opportunity to provide an annual report of 2022 accomplishments and 2023 goals would help the City Commission during their retreat in January 2023.

2. **Juried Art Competition** – No discussion due to time constraints.

E. New Business

1. Aggieville 12th Street Design – Potential Public Art Placement

Jared Wasinger described the design concepts, still in draft form, for 12th Street in Aggieville, and asked the board to begin thinking about placement for public art and a process to allow for that public art to be selected. Wasinger indicated there was still plenty of time for consideration, given design would last into 2023, and construction likely wouldn't occur until 2024.

F. Standing Items

1. Donated Art Application

- a. **Douglass Center Sculptures** – Kristen Dolf presented on the donor initiated public art policy and the process that follows. She presented background on the applicant, artist, details of the project and its purpose. In addition, Kristen provided an overview of the presentation, consideration and comments regarding this item which occurred at the recent Douglass Center Advisory Board meeting. Hilary Wahlen asked for clarification on the artist selection. Kristen said GMCF put out call for artists and a small group made the selection. Board members had comments related to initial reactions related to the sculpture drawings. Hilary Wahlen had comments related to the sculpture of the girl and how she doesn't look like she's doing anything, not much happening with the adults. GMCF will have the final determination but is looking for feedback from the boards. Marueen Sheehan, former Chair and current member of the of Douglass Center Advisory board provided insight on the deliberations and feedback from DCAB. DBAB spent a lot of time discussing the sketches and gave a lot of feedback. They wanted to ensure the clothing for children, mannerisms and placement of adult statues, were consistent with the time period and they requested artist make site visit. Luke Townsend recommended community engagement from long term residents of the Yuma Street district. Taylor McFall asked where the artist is from. Kristen indicated Salina. Karen McCulloh noted the importance to have signage related to sculptures and history of USO and what it stands for. Maureen indicated there would be plaques of some kind to be determined later in the process. Chair Barrett noted the original concept prior to this application lacked cultural competence and recommended the need for community engagement in the process and noted the lack representation of African Americans on the GMFC committee to help tell that story. He also recommended the statue utilize reference to someone that lived on Yuma Street. Maureen noted DCAB discussed the idea of recognition of specific individuals, but the group landed on not representing a specific person. Hilary Wahlen noted the problem with representation in sculptures is it could not be well done or inaccurate. She also indicated a personal passion to see these sculptures be completed but had issue with artist that was chosen and that the word on the RFP was not spread enough and there was only 30 days to submit. AHAB members acknowledge the desire for firmly developed

concepts. Luke Townsend requested engagement of the Yuma community to provide feedback on the sculptures. Hilary agreed. AHAB discussed tabling the item with a request to applicant for community input and more detailed sketches. Hilary Wahlen noted the importance of not delaying the project to much. Chair Barrett Jr. made a motion to table the item and request more detailed sketches from the article, and request GMCF and the artist seek community input and discussion from the surround neighborhood, interested individuals, historical society and other museums who may have knowledge of the time frame, all regarding the specific of the sculptures and their portrayal, and for the applicant to present findings at the October 12 meeting. Hilary Wahlen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- b. **Sunset Zoo Sculptures Application** – Kristen Dolf presented on the donor initiated public art policy and the process that follows. She presented background on the applicant, artist, details of the project and its purpose. Chair Barrett Jr. asked for clarification on how long AHAB had to consider the item. Kristen said 90 days. Nancy Knopp from the Sunset Zoo Trust said they have been working on this project for over a year and hope to get blessing from AHAB and the City Commission to move forward as soon as possible. Nancy indicated the only new factor with the updated application was the former artist, John, who passed away did their own maquette, and did his own pointing up, which is not the more modern 3D route used today. John’s widow has worked with Art Castings, out of Loveland, CO, the longtime foundry. The new step in the process is the company from Oregon, FORM, will point up and do the 3D processing. Chair Barrett Jr. noted the importance of honoring John’s work. Hilary Wahlen motioned to accept the new application and changes as presented. Karen McCulloh seconded the motion. Luke Townsend said he loved this project and noted he was huge fan of the zoo and he worked there as a kid. He mentioned he would love to see a placard recognizing John’s last work. Kristen said the Zoo and applicant plan to pursue a placard noting that with a QR to the original drawings and images of John’s other work. The motion passed unanimously.

G. Staff Report

No staff report due to time constraints.

H. Next Meeting

Wednesday, October 12, 2022

I. Adjournment

Chair Barrett Jr. adjourned the meeting at 1:14 p.m.