MEETING MINUTES
Public Art Committee
Tuesday, January 8, 2013
6:15 p.m.
Noyes Cultural Arts Center, 927 Noyes Street, Studio 106

Members Present: David Forte, Mariah DeForest, Deborah Hirshfield, Jenifer McCartney, Gay Riseborough

Members Absent: Ryan Hall – Chair, Josh Barney, Judith Cohen, Amanda Wood

Staff Present: Douglas J. Gaynor, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director; Jeff Cory, Cultural Arts/Arts Council Director; Jill Silverman, Secretary II Cultural Arts Division

Declaration of Quorum
With a quorum present, Mr. Forte called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES
It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the October & November 2012 meetings be approved. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

COMMITTEE REPORTS
Washington National TIF - Mr. Cory reported Krivanek & Breaux met with the City’s Facilities Management staff to follow up on technical issues. An online survey seeking community input generated 28 responses during the month of December.

STAFF REPORTS
Mr. Cory reported Conversations: Here and Now has been repaired. The restorer will come back to clean off the minor graffiti when the weather is warmer. Staff is still awaiting a proposal from the artist for replacement of the Loose History of Evanston mural that was mistakenly painted over. Mr. Gaynor mentioned that the Mayor has proposed a new ordinance aimed at protecting murals that have been approved by the Public Art Committee. Mr. Gaynor suggested that the committee develop a method to identify murals that have been reviewed and approved by the City. The committee discussed the possibility of creating a reusable stamp or stencil that could be added at each mural site. Mr. Forte suggested that the committee review the City’s current public art guidelines, and possibly develop a checklist of items that applicants should include. Mr. Cory said he would tweak the existing guidelines and present them to the Public Art Committee for discussion at the February meeting.

Mr. Cory reported Michael Montenegro was unable to restore the Davis Street mural prior to winter. He plans to complete the project in the spring.
Mr. Cory reported the evanstARTs working group is nearing completion of its information-gathering project. Two community meetings are scheduled on Tuesday, January 15, to share preliminary findings with the public. Mr. Cory also mentioned that the City recently released a Downtown Performing Arts Study that was funded in part by the National Endowment for the Arts. The report recommends that Evanston consider establishing three or more performing arts venues in downtown Evanston. The report can be found on the City’s web site. Some Public Art Committee members questioned the need for creating new performing arts spaces in Evanston when residents have access to world-class facilities in nearby Chicago. Ms. Riseborough requested an update on the Noyes Cultural Arts Center. Mr. Cory reported that an agreement with Piven Theatre Workshop has not yet been reached. If an agreement is reached, the project will be brought to the Human Services Committee of City Council for consideration. The next two meetings of the Human Services Committee are on February 4, and March 4, 2013.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Two-Year Work Plan – All City boards and commissions have been asked to present a two-year work plan that includes goals and objectives to the Rules Committee. The Public Art Committee’s presentation will take place on Monday, March 4, 2013. Committee members agreed PAC Chair Mr. Ryan Hall should speak on behalf of the Public Art Committee. Mr. Cory asked committee members to send him ideas that they would like to see included in the work plan. Current ideas on the table include revising the Percent for Art ordinance, creating a new public art bike rack program, developing a clickable online map of the City’s public art collection, reprinting a hard-copy public art map, developing a “stamp of approval” to identify approved public art projects, establishing a public art maintenance fund, developing a walking tour or a trolley tour of public art murals or sculptures, reinstating funding for the Community Public Art Program, commissioning more interactive sculpture, and encouraging street artists/performers.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Cory announced the exhibition Stitched in Tradition: Art Quilts of the Black Threads Collective will open with a reception on Wednesday, January 9, 2013 at the Noyes Cultural Arts Center.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Silverman
Secretary II, Parks Recreation & Community Services