MEETING MINUTES
Public Art Committee
Tuesday, February 12, 2013
6:15 p.m.
Noyes Cultural Arts Center, 927 Noyes Street, Studio 106

Members Present: Ryan Hall – Chair, Josh Barney, Judith Cohen, Mariah DeForest, Deborah Hirshfield, Gay Riseborough, Amanda Wood

Members Absent: David Forte, Jenifer McCartney

Staff Present: Jeff Cory, Cultural Arts/Arts Council Director; Jill Silverman, Secretary II Cultural Arts Division

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

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 2013
It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the January 2013 meeting be approved. Motion carried 6-0 with one abstention.

MURAL APPLICATION – Ms. Kim Hoopingarner, Development Director for Youth Job Center Evanston, presented a proposal for a mural installation. The YJC would like to publicly promote their achievement of providing 30 years of youth services to the Evanston community. The mural will depict youth working as well as providing work to the youth through the painting of the mural. YJC proposed installing the mural on a viaduct wall on the north side of Church Street, just west of Mason Park. Mr. Cory mentioned that the Public Art Committee had been approached by the grandfather of Daejae Coleman, Mr. Michael Rice, about creating a memorial mural on the south wall at that location, but that there had been some uncertainty over ownership of the wall. Mr. Barney said that he had put Mr. Rice in touch with a nationally known graffiti artist, and that some thought had been given to using walls on both the north and south sides of the street at that site. Mr. Barney said he emailed Mr. Rice to follow up and heard nothing back. It was decided that staff should contact Mr. Rice to confirm the status of his plans. Ms. Riseborough made a motion to approve installation of a YJC mural at the Church Street site, pending a discussion with Mr. Rice about his plans. A deadline of two weeks was established for contacting Mr. Rice. Ms. Hirshfield seconded the motion. Mr. Cory asked Ms. Hoopingarner if any alternate sites for the mural had been considered. She mentioned the wall on Green Bay Road across from Hecky’s. Mr. Cory mentioned that a mural had recently been removed from that site without authorization, and that the committee was encouraging artist Theodore Boggs to submit a proposal for a replacement mural at that site. Ms. Hoopingarner said that the Youth Job Center will continue to look for other suitable walls in Evanston. Ms. Riseborough added additional conditions to her motion, that a more detailed scale drawing be
provided by YJC and that site approval is secured by the owner of the wall. The motion carried unanimously (7-0). Ms. Riseborough asked YJC to submit a scale drawing that identifies which wall they will be using. Ms. DeForest offered to provide YJC with a recommendation of appropriate materials to be used in creating the mural. Ms. DeForest said she would contact Ms. Hoopingarner and cc Ms. Hirshfield. Mr. Barney mentioned that the Church Street walls are in rough shape and that prep work may be costly. There was brief discussion about the option of painting a mural on boards or outdoor canvas that would be attached to the wall. The best approach can be determined once a site has been selected.

**TEN THOUSAND RIPPLES** – Ms. Indira Freitas Johnson reported on the progress of the Ten Thousand Ripples public art and peace project. Ten Buddha heads are planned for installation throughout Evanston, with a goal of encouraging a community dialogue about non-violence. Ms. Cohen expressed concern over the use of a religious figure. Ms. Johnson acknowledged the concern and replied that while she is not a Buddhist, she has been using the symbol of the Buddha as a metaphor for peace for more than a decade. She mentioned that people have expressed feeling a sense of peace upon encountering a Buddha head. This sentiment inspired her to develop this project for display in neighborhoods across the Chicagoland area. A survey has been posted on the City of Evanston’s website to determine placement of the sculptures. Ms. Johnson explained that five of the sculptures will be installed temporarily, while the other five will remain on display as a gift to the Evanston community. A culminating reception will be at Loyola University Museum of Art in July. Ms. Hirshfield made a motion to approve the public art project, which was seconded by Ms. Wood. There was a brief discussion on community focus groups that will be held at the Ecology Center, Grey Park and ETHS using the theme “Bridging Differences”. The motion carried 6-0 with one abstention.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Washington National TIF Project** – no update was given.

**STAFF REPORTS**

Mr. Cory gave a recap on the several arts planning initiatives that have been initiated in recent months. The NEA-funded study on a possible downtown arts corridor was presented to City Council last month. evanstARTs is reaching its final stages, with the working group planning to present findings to City Council on Monday, March 18, 2013. There have also been multiple arts education advocacy efforts undertaken recently, one by Harvey Pranian and YEA!, and another, the Evanston Arts Education Coalition, which was organized by a group of parents at Dawes School. Mr. Cory said there is nothing new to report regarding Piven Theatre’s proposal for the Noyes Cultural Arts Center. The City Manager has said that he will give the Noyes Tenants Association an opportunity to review the proposal once it has been completed and prior to consideration by City Council. Mr. Cory reported that a proposal to build a new theater on Howard Street was recently rejected by City Council, but that a revised proposal may be brought back to City Council for reconsideration in the near future.
UNFINISHED BUSINESS
A draft of a two-year work plan for the Public Art Committee was distributed, with a request for discussion and input. The plan is scheduled to be presented to the City Council Rules Committee on March 4, 2013. There was a brief discussion on the Percent for Art Program, which currently only applies to new municipal construction. Members expressed concern over a lack of municipal construction projects in the pipeline. It was suggested that the Public Art Committee review the existing Percent for Art ordinance and consider making a proposal for expanding its scope to include other types of construction.

NEW BUSINESS
Mr. Barney mentioned that Alderman Judy Fiske hopes to move forward with a plan to revitalize Fountain Square. She wants the Public Art Committee to be involved, possibly in the selection of a new fountain.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS
Ms. Riseborough nominated Mr. Hall to serve as chair of the Public Art Committee for a second year. Ms. DeForest nominated Ms. Riseborough, who declined the nomination. Ms. Riseborough nominated Ms. Wood, who also declined due to commitments at work and home. Ms. Wood expressed willingness to serve as a vice chair with Mr. Hall. Ms. Riseborough nominated Ms. Wood as vice chair. A vote was taken and the slate of Mr. Hall as chair and Ms. Wood as vice chair was unanimously approved, 7-0.

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