PUBLIC ART SUBCOMMITTEE
Tuesday, October 1, 2019 – 6 p.m.
Lorraine Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Avenue, Room 2404

Staff Present: Paulina Martínez

1. CALL TO ORDER / DECLARATION OF QUORUM

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JUNE 4, 2019

Approved unanimously.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

4. CONSIDERATION

A. Re-Grow, Re-Vive Purchase

Ms. Martínez explained to the committee that Ms. Vivian Visser, author of the Re-grow, Re-vive. Sculpture is offering to sell the piece to the city for an additional $2,500. She added that the piece is projected to have a life expectancy of three years or six years if properly maintained.

Ms. Riseborough suggested offering her $1,000.

Ms. Cohen asked who pays for the maintenance of the piece. Ms. Martínez advised that responsibility would fall on the City of Evanston.

Ms. Axelrood suggested offering the artist $2,500, but a coating of varnishing should be included.

Ms. Joy stated that we should not spend more than what we have committed to pay already, because life expectancy is uncertain.

Ms. Johnson and Ms. Riseborough both suggested offering a lower rate to the original amount paid for the current lease.

Staff was directed to negotiate a lower amount with the artist.
Ms. Martínez advised the committee she procured bids for the plaques and recommended awarding the bid to the lowest bidder.

Passed 6-0

5. Discussion

A. Contract Pay Structure

Ms. Riseborough said at that at the last Arts Council meeting someone mentioned that the City should withhold part of the payment of commission pieces for a year to make sure the piece lasts a year.

Ms. Johnson indicated that when she worked with CTA that was the structure –they withheld payment for a year to ensure the piece was in good condition for at least a year.

Ms. Riseborough suggesting that instead of withholding payment for a year, that we make sure to add maintenance warranty on art pieces. Ms. Martínez indicated she will work with legal on reviewing the current contract templates.

B. 2020 Mural Repairs

Ms. Riseborough recommended prioritizing murals in 2020 based on the mural’s age and condition. She suggested concentrating on the Church Street murals, east of Dodge. She indicated she would not want to spend more than $1,500 on the repairs of this mural.

C. Robert Crown Community Center East Wall

Ms. Riseborough explained Arts Council Chair, Beth Adler, wanted for the Public Arts Subcommittee to come up with ideas to do a big public art piece at the west wall of the new Robert Crown Community Center, because the wall is really big and blank. No murals, maybe a wall sculpture.

Dr. Ahmad said it is a good idea, and it might be nice to coordinate it with the motif of Blessing’s piece.

Ms. Martínez said she will consult with the City’s engineer.

D. Michael Montenegro Mural Expansion

Ms. Riseborough indicated she wanted artist Michael Montenegro to expand his mural to the entire wall.
Ms. Martínez expressed concern over the artist’s commitment to the project in previous years. Paulina – concerns about commitment.

Ms. Riseborough said Mr. Montenegro is painter and not a public artist. Ms. Martínez and Ms. Johnson expressed concern that Mr. Montenegro is not a public artist.

Ms. Riseborough asked the committee to drive by the mural and come back with thoughts at the next meeting.

6. Reports

A. Noyes Street Station

Ms. Martínez reported that CTA had denied the proposal, and is now working with Chicago Public Art Group (CPAG) and other stakeholders to find an alternative site and revise the design.

B. 2019 Budget

Ms. Martínez provided a brief overview of 2019 expenses to date, and provided information about the proposed 2020 budget.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.