Minutes
Michigan City Public Art Committee
Mayors Conference Room, City Hall, 100 E Michigan Blvd,
Michigan City, IN 46360
June 20, 2019
10:00 am

Call to Order: Robin Kohn
Attendees: Robin Kohn, Jane Daley, Janet Bloch, Shannon Eason, John Ryszka, Matt Kubik, Donald Przybylinski, Judy Jacobi; guest Abby May, Justin Post, Ryan Laughlin

Minutes:
Minutes from the May meeting were reviewed.

Motion
It was moved (Cooper) and seconded (Jacobi) to accept the minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Financial Report:
Ms. Eason presented the financial report for the end of March as follows: The operating fund has a balance of $1,425.36 The non-reverting donation fund has a balance of $10,419.13

Motion
It was moved (Daley) and seconded (Bloch) to accept the financial report as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment:
Abby May (President Michigan City Mainstreet Association along with Justin Post and Ryan Laughlin presented the artist submission for the banner that will be placed on the light posts in the Uptown Arts District. MAC determined that most of the art was acceptable. MAC must consider all public art as appropriate.

Motion
It was moved (Bloch and seconded (Przybylinski) to exclude the artwork depicting a female form with bird heads. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion
It was moved (Jacobi) and seconded (Przybylinski) that MAC does not recommend the nude female forms as public art for banners. The motion carried unanimously.

Old Business:
  • Kiosk in Westcott Park
  No report
  • Owl & Pussy cat
  The sculpture has been repaired, repainted and returned to Westcott Park.
- **Add Photos to City Council Chamber**

  On going

  - **Native American Project** (intersection of Michigan Blvd. & US Hwy 12 area)
    - The Sub-committee (Ms. Cooper, Ms. Daley, Ms. Brown, Mr. Kubik, Ms. Dennis, Ms. Jacobi)

  The committee still needs to meet with the artist (Jason Quigno). Ms. Daley did contact the committee for a suitable date, however there was no consensus on a time. Ongoing.

**New Business:**

- **Report concerning 2% for art from Redevelopment** – The Sub-committee (Mr. Kubik, Ms. Fosberg, Ms. Jacobi, Ms. Bloch and Mr. Presbylinsky). Ms. Bloch will meet with the city attorney in July and should have more information at the July meeting.

- **Uptown Plaza**

  Plans for the plaza will be presented to Michigan City Now at a meeting at Blue Chip on June 24th.

- **Sculptfusion**

  The Kickoff event will be hosted by MAC at the Plaza on Wednesday, July 31st starting at 5 pm. We were hoping to coordinate with Mainstreet for their banner kick off as well.

- **Amend Ordinance and review Master Plan** – will review in September

- **Otocast, Facebook, Website**

  Otocast will need to add new sculptures. Still waiting on new website.

  - **Keeping “Pinky” as a public art piece** – Table until fall
  - **Fund Raisers** – Ms. Kohn is scheduling a give back in September on the tour boat Emita II.

- **Committee Reports:**

  - **Special Advisory Committee** - Sub-Committee: Ms. Dennis, Ms. Cooper, Ms. Jacobi

  No Report

  - **Art Projects:**

    No projects were submitted.

  - **Children’s Art Scholarship Requests:**

    There were 7 requests for a total of $1,000

**Motion**

It was moved (Eason) and seconded (Daley) to approve all 7 requests for children’s art scholarship requests. The classes will be given at the Lubeznik Center for the Arts. The motion carried unanimously.

- **PR Committee** – (Janet Bloch, CarolAnn Brown, Jane Daley, Ms. Jacobi)

  A press release will be sent announcing the Sculptfusion kick-off event in July.

**Other MC Commissions/Committees:**

- **Michigan City Mainstreet Association**

  No Report

- **Michigan City Merchants Association**

  No report

  - **Branding Committee**
Comments:
Ms. Bloch ask the committee for a gift of $1,000 to cover the entrance admission for Veterans to gain entrance into the Lakefront Art Festival.

Motion
It was moved (Cooper) and seconded (Eason) to donate $1,000 to the Lubeznik Center for the Arts for free entrance for Veterans into the Lakefront Art Festival. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Eason explained a complaint that Mayor Meer’s office received from Jonathan Gross, Pastor of His Grace Abounds Church. Pastor Gross was concerned about the sculpture in Washington Park titled “Khnum”. Pastor Gross explained that he saw a photo of the head of the sculpture on Facebook and wanted to know if it was demonic. Ms. Eason’s response on behalf of MAC. The MAC Committee agrees with Ms. Eason’s response to Pastor Gross.

The Association of Public Art states:
“In a diverse society, all art cannot appeal to all people, nor should it be expected to do so. Art attracts attention; that is what it is supposed to do. Is it any wonder, then, that public art causes controversy? Varied popular opinion is inevitable, and it is a healthy sign that the public environment is acknowledged rather than ignored. To some degree, every public art project is an interactive process involving artists, architects, design professionals, community residents, civic leaders, politicians, approval agencies, funding agencies, and construction teams. The challenge of this communal process is to enhance rather than limit the artist’s involvement.”

Ms. Eason said, “While the Michigan City Public Art Committee strives to provide diverse public art, we certainly do not wish to offend anyone. Instead, we try to inspire people to share their ideas and have conversations about the pieces. We thank you for your comments and will discuss them at our next public meeting on June 20th which you are welcome to attend. The meeting will be held at 10 am in the conference next to the Mayor’s Office on the upper level of City Hall”.

Adjournment:
The meeting was adjourned the meeting at 11:10 am.

Next meeting:
The next Michigan City Public Art Committee meeting will be on Thursday, July 18, 2019 in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, 100 E Michigan Blvd, Michigan City, IN 46360 starting at 10:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Daley - Secretary