

CITY OF MARQUETTE PUBLIC ART COMMISSION MINUTES

City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center

February 8, 2023

6:30pm

Meeting began at 6:34 PM.

Present: Steven Hughes, Kristina Behrens, Tracy Wascom, Linnea Gustafson, Tiina Morin, Lauren Tilma, Lance Larson, Hannah Milkie.

I. Call to Order

Chairperson, Tracy Wascom, called meeting to order at 6:34 PM.

II. Roll Call

Present: Steven Hughes, Kristina Behrens, Tracy Wascom, Linnea Gustafson, Tiina Morin, Lauren Tilma, Lance Larson, Hannah Milkie.

III. Consent Agenda/Approval Minutes

Steven motioned to approve agenda, Linnea seconded motion. All were in favor – approved.

Lauren motioned to approve minutes, Linnea seconded motion. Kristina and Lauren abstained.

Others in favor – approved.

IV. Public Comment

David Kronberg submitted a letter to be read as public comment, introducing himself and the Light Lab team, and expressing interest in future collaborations.

V. MPAC Chair Report

Tracy Wascom presented the Chair report. Of important note, this was the last meeting for Linnea and Steven after two terms on the commission. Additionally, Tracy presented the MPAC annual update at the Marquette City Commission meeting on January 30th. Tracy and Tiina met with Nheena Ittner regarding the Playground For All, and discussed that MPAC will provide feedback and approval on any public art components and include in the long-term public art maintenance plan.

VI. Manager Report

Tiina Morin highlighted the Art Week call for proposals with a theme of “Home.” MACC is planning incorporating an interpretive component for the Marquette Master Plan, and may be able to have an emphasis on the importance for children and children’s activities. An idea was presented to hold hands around Presque Isle during Art Week (approx. 2500-3500 people would be needed).

An upcoming session for Artists in Excellence is Thursday, February 23rd. MACC will present State of the Arts on March 23rd. Tiina said any feedback on this would be welcomed.

VII. Old Business

1. Updates

a. Cultural Trail, Indigenous Art Project(s) updates

- i. KBIC steering committee would like a working session with MPAC. They expressed approval for the art location at Spear Dock, and like the sign for treaty acknowledgement, as well as Gaines Rock for a history interpretation. They have given their go-ahead, and would like to continue to be looped in for major decisions (as well as the working group meeting). Themes can include development and environmental impact.
- ii. An additional grant from Superior Watershed Partnership (\$30,000) was received for public art.
- iii. Discussion was had on commissioning Jason Quigno for the piece. He works with local stone for its durability and has roots with KBIC. A grant is available which must be written by the artist and is due in early March. Linnea motioned to pursue outreach to Jason Quigno for the flagship piece at the Spear Dock, Hannah seconded. All approved.
- iv. All MPAC commissioners to consider how they see the piece inviting people to public art. For review in next meeting.

b. Collection Signage update

- i. Tracy presented a mockup, which was etched from back. These are ready to be produced for the collection, and logistics of installation will still need to be finalized (weather dependent, etc.)

c. Photo license; final reviews & approval

- i. Lance motioned to approve the photo license document that Steven had previously circulated, Hannah seconded motion. Approved.

d. Policy and Maintenance; review of vendors

- i. Tiina spoke with Michigan-based conservators on why they are not well-suited for the job (for example – focus on specific or different media, now retired, lack of response).
- ii. Oberlin and University of Minnesota Art Institute will be providing RFP's. Tiina will ask some independent contractors too.

e. Spear Dock public art; benches

- i. Tracy had a discussion with Dale Wedig on how to mount and install the art caps. Dale recommends painted, coreten, powder-coated, or etched steel, or ceramic. A tentative budget could be \$1,000 to the artist (to include fabrication costs). An open question is whether all mounts need to be made at once. Tracy will reach out to possible fabricator(s) and report in next meeting. Timeline for first installation would be September.
- ii. All MPAC commissioners are to consider what they would like to see – a specific theme, general / open-ended, etc. For review in next meeting.

2. To Complete

a. Words to Live & Bike By; finalize RFP and timelines; prep for City approval process

- i. Reviewed RFP and made a few adjustments. Tracy will compile edits.
- ii. RFP to go live April 1st, so that MPAC may review submissions at May MPAC meeting and notify artists by May 15th.

- iii. Weekend of Aug 11-12 will be the artist work window, with stenciling taking place before. Unveiling ceremony will be on Aug 13th.
- iv. Tracy is in contact with Cook Sign Services, who will provide any additional letter stencils needed.
- v. Linnea presented an idea for a word that MPAC could paint as a team – INSPIRE. The location will be on the bike path by Superior Hills Elementary School. MPAC would like to complete this prior to Art Week to help promote the broader project.
- vi. Tiina will review the final proposed locations to Parks and Rec department for support.
- b. Identify partners for CRIOS temporary artwork; establish timeline for project**
 - i. Tabled for future meeting.
- c. Initial brainstorm of educational initiatives with Marquette Public Art; goals, potential deliverables, timelines**
 - i. Tabled for future meeting.

VIII. New Business

None.

IX. Committee Reports (as needed)

- 1. Friends of Marquette Public Art Commission
 - a. None.
- 2. Policy and Maintenance
 - a. None.

X. Good of the Order

Tracy mentioned a conversation she had with Bill Digneit, to build awareness of a 3' x 60' LED strip that could serve as a resource for any display installations. Tiina Morin mentioned the Marquette Master Plan open house taking place February 15th. Officer elections will also need to take place for MPAC at a future meeting.

XI. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Next scheduled regular meeting will be March 8, 2023 at 6:30PM.

Submitted by Kristina Behrens.



Prepared for official upload (8/17/23) by T. Wascom, Chair of Marquette Public Art Commission