

CITY OF MARQUETTE PUBLIC ART COMMISSION MINUTES

City of Marquette Arts and Cultural Center, Marquette, MI

March 13, 2024

I. Call to Order: 6:30 pm

II. Roll Call:

- i. Present: Lauren Tilma, Brianna Hobbins, Amy Stephens, Alison Taras, and Emily Tobin Lavoy
- ii. City: Tiina Morin
- ii. Special Guest: Nheena Weyer Ittner from Friends of MPAC and Chair of Kid's Cove Project, Ivy from NMU ("State and Local Government" class student)

III. Approval of Agenda/Minutes:

- i. Motion to approve March Special Meeting Minutes by Brianna, seconded by Amy, approved by majority
- ii. Motion to amend March Agenda to include 'Marquette Skate Plaza Dale Wedig benches' in New Business by Tiina Morin, seconded by Amy, approved by majority
- iii. Motion to approve March Agenda by Amy, seconded by Emily, approved by majority

IV. Public Comment

- i. Ivy– N/A

V. MPAC Chair Report

- i. Lauren Tilma– N/A

VI. Manager Report

- i. Tiina Morin -
 - a. Arts and Culture Advisory Committee special work session 3/14/24 Art Center, 6:30pm
 - b. Artweek updates:
 - call for Rosewood Walkway installation proposals out; \$3,000 commission; w/ DDA
 - c. Jason Quigno updates:
 - needs to pick up remaining 3 stones
 - NMU Native American Studies students are working with Fresh Coast Light Lab to create laser show based on Seven Grandfather Teachings (displayed at Ore Dock)
 - d. Artists in Excellence updates:
 - city confused by goals and funding
 - teachers and schools don't have resources; who can take on fiscal responsibility?
 - e. potential 'Family Legacy Public Landscape Design Project'
 - interested couple; may be beneficial for events like cultural gatherings and weddings
 - f. Fisher School (New Life Church location):
 - available space
 - new shared maker space? low-income housing for artists?
 - Tiina is talking with Directors of Community Foundation, Lake Superior Community Partnership and Beth Millner.
 - Tiina assumes rehab/reno will take \$3-4 million
 - potential exploratory groups in the future

VII: Old Business

i. Completed

- a. Brianna nominated herself for Chair of MPAC
- b. Motion to vote for Brianna as Chair of MPAC, seconded by Amy, approved by all
- c. Motion to approve Brianna as Chair of MPAC by Emily, seconded by Amy, approved by all
- d. 'Kids Cove Dragonfly Sculpture' updates
 - Addie and Matt submitted new design; no arch as previously discussed/shown- only dragonfly
 - fallback to Design #1 Brian Wignall
 - sculpture may be moved to garden area
 - familiar w/ ADA; design will accommodate with of wheelchair
 - Tiina mentioned that he knows he is still in the running
 - best to put him in touch w/ Bill Sanders for engineering concerns
 - motion to select Brian Wignall's design by Emily, seconded by Amy, approved by majority
 - Tiina will offer contract by next MPAC meeting (April 10th)
 - Lauren asked if Addie and Matt should still receive the additional \$350 stipend previously offered for the new arch design
 - did not provided an arch design; so no
 - Tiina will update Addie and Matt and provide a letter of thanks; no contract was signed
- e. 'Indigenous Art Projects' updates:
 - NEA advisory had suggested to Tiina to include more indigenous peoples input such as a traditional meal with local indigenous communities
 - Tiina has reminds us that John Quigno's Seven Grandfathers sculpture is to be completed by Art Week
- f. 'Spear Dock' public art updates:
 - will need an update from past Chair Tracy Wascom ("her brain child")
 - Lauren was concerned with the prototype spec for the art displays on the benches; Tracy had consulted with Dale Wedig previously
 - project will be 'back burnered;' focus will be on Kids Cove sculpture and Seven Grandfathers sculpture for the next few months minimally
 - Tiina will reach out to Mike Sjoland DPW for specs on display prototype and let him know MPAC has interest but will not address the project until maybe 2025
- g. 'Words to Live and Bike by' updates:
 - Tiina stated the call is already out for new submissions
 - 4 new locations/words; info found on MQT Compass website
 - designs will be provided to MPAC for May meeting (May 8th)
 - Tiina brought up need to revisit/change some of the language on the MQT Compass website

ii. In Progress

- a. Newsletter ('Class Connections')
 - Lauren reviewed 'Class Connections'-theme: 'Words to Live and Bike by'

- Lauren and Tracy volunteered their time to create; contract someone outside of Commission members? (Tiina reminded us MPAC is not allowed to have volunteers)
- template provided
- Emily offered her services; Alison offered to team up with her
 - Canva or Adobe for template
- Tiina wondered about how to promote this resource more, especially with multiple teachers on the Commission; a potential subcommittee?
- Lauren suggested at a fall date for the next newsletter and have it focused on Jason Quigno and his Seven Grandfather Teachings sculpture
- Lauren looked for interest in subcommittee
 - Alison, Amy, Emily, and Lauren offered their interest
- Previous publication timeline was quarterly; discussions for a motion to change the publication date from quarterly to biannual since this quarter will have no Publications
 - unknown future publication date; subcommittee will tackle this once formed

VIII. New Business

i. Mural Artist Directory

- a. Tiina has received a lot of inquiries for muralists
 - Tiina suggested a list of vetted muralists to provide to businesses/for the City to call on with requirements and tips; vetting procedures and documents created by MPAC in the future to give to the City
 - Neenah provided ideas from the Mural Festival by Flint Public Art Project
 - she stated they may have good muralist vetting procedures
 - Tiina similarly suggested looking to other cities for these procedures
 - Brianna shared interest in a collaborative, on-going community mural for Art Week

ii. Art Week

- a. Jason Quigno's sculpture will be unveiled the Sunday before Art Week (6/23), time TBD
 - Tiina stressed importance of MPAC Chair speaking at this event
- b. Tiina asked what can MPAC do for Art Week
 - Amy suggested a Google Doc for brainstorming ideas
 - Amy requested Tiina share finalized Art Week schedule with MPAC
 - Tiina reviewed connections with DEI and SmartZone
 - SmartZone consultant suggested to Tiina that they can offer professional headshots that are shared publicly as a large reel/group of the 'faces' of Marquette

iii. Marquette Skate Plaza- Dale Wedig benches

- a. Tiina received feedback from Jon Swenson that they are rusted and need a refresh
- b. Alison will ask Dale for preference; rust may be part of "aesthetic"
- c. contracted conservationists said "leave them"

IX. Committee Reports (as needed)

i. Friends of Marquette Public Art Commission