

MARQUETTE PUBLIC ART COMMISSION

MINUTES

April 14, 2021

Zoom Meeting

Marquette, MI

Meeting began at 6:33 PM.

Present: Kristina Behrens, Linnea Gustafson, Steven Hughes, Emily Lanctot, Tracy Wascom, Maureen Tyrrell, Tiina Morin, Amelia Pruitt, Kristine Granger, Ben Pawlowski, Iris Katers, Ellen, Chad McKinney, Dana LaLonde, Kyle Lafrinere, Mariah Cleary, Jennifer Ray, Kayleigh Heynon, Nheena Ittner

I. Call to Order

Chairperson, Tracy Wascom called meeting to order at 6:33 PM.

II. Roll Call

Linnea Gustafson, Steven Hughes, Emily Lanctot, Tracy Wascom, Maureen Tyrrell, Kristina Behrens

III. Approval Minutes

Motion by Emily Lanctot to consent agenda, seconded by Kristina Behrens and Steven Hughes. All were in favor.

Motion made by Steven Hughes to approve March Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Kristina Behrens. All were in favor.

IV. Public Comment

Ben Pawlowski, 348 W. Park St., Marquette – Voiced support for project and emphasized the need for visual arts in the community as it is not always supported in some local schools.

Chad McKinney, 611 Mesnard, Marquette – Graphic artist who lives in neighborhood and voiced support of project.

Iris Katers, 15 Specker Circle, Marquette – Voiced concern for having painted basketball court. Discussed poll results of community members and school kids regarding feelings about mural; all polled were not in favor of mural. Concern for individuals with depth perception/sensory problems.

Dana LaLonde, Former Marquette resident, resident of Negaunee – Has special needs/Autistic child and voices support from perspective of having child with special needs.

Caben McKendrick, lives 3 blocks away from park – Frequently uses courts to play basketball in summer and is excited to play ball on painted court. Voiced support for project.

Kristine Granger, Rock St., Marquette – Discussed being life-long artist and art educator, including art teacher to at-risk students, in support of project.

Ellen Lore – Kaye Ave., Marquette – Librarian and mother of autistic child who is 15 years of age. Both Ellen and her child were in support of images/mural project. Discussed the possibility of using other city courts if issues with the painted court.

Kyle Lafrinere, 327 Blemhuber Ave., Marquette – Artist who came to NMU in 2012, graduated with art degree in 2016. Voiced support of mural project as he feels it will increase use of park, emphasized other options within city and several blocks away if not useable.

Marin Cleary, 2 Grovehill Ct., Marquette – Theater/Arts professional in support of mural project. Significant emphasis on alternative court availability if not interested in playing on mural court.

Mrs. McKinney, 611 Mesnard, Marquette – Letter written, read by Tiina Morin, in support of having additional art in neighborhood.

Jake Feather, Marquette Senior High School Teacher – Letter read by Tiina Morin, supportive of project

Kayleigh Heynon, Marquette – Voiced support for project.

V. MPAC Chair Report

Tracy Wascom discussed research and logistics involved to prepare for project.

VI. Manager Report

Tiina Morin discussed Art Week planning and theme, Reconnecting Through the Arts. All planned activities to take place outdoors, including country music concerts at city park. All activities take place with consideration of state public health guidelines. Public Art Passport to be discussed at next meeting. Library and Arts Center will have no exhibits through June. Marquette Compass will tentatively launch in May.

VII. Friends of Marquette Public Art Commission Report

No update; Nheena Ittner and Jennifer Ray in attendance.

VIII. Old Business

1. Queen City Courts – Review and discussion of artwork from finalists
 - a. Evaluation and determination of final design; including review of surveys and public comment. Chairperson Tracy Wascom provides background on Project Back Board and Queen City Court initiation and development, discussed goals, importance of everyone's considerations, and expectations of longevity of mural is not decades but as long as possible. Tiina provides input from home-owners adjacent to court; majority of people wished to remain anonymous. Input reported by Tiina from Jerry Irby discussed concern regarding baseballs hitting/hurting kids playing on basketball court. Tiina discussed future plan for the City to place nets around baseball diamonds. Tina discussed the research involved and completed to vet project at state level; Michigan Access, Autism Educator Board Members were provided final selection choices for feedback and had no issues with any selections. Tiina shares Dawn Bruholm-Pape, General Education Classroom Teacher, MARESA, feedback that

reviewed Transition students' responses to viewing the images; feedback was divided similarly for each image. Feedback from M. Allen, MARESA Associate Superintendent for Education when questioning Transition students on ability to play on court with image at feet was that the mural would not be an issue. Sam Peterson, Project Back Board Director reviewed final images favorably, stating the three-point line was the most needed line for city park/pick-up basketball games. The Parks and Rec Commissioner in Philadelphia reviewed selections and foresees no issues. After discussing professional feedback, Tiina states she is in favor of moving forward with final artist selection. Tracy reviewed each of the final selections and compiled community feedback. Emily Lancot made a motion to discuss each mural on independent basis, seconded by Steven Hughes. Each member discussed their stance on each mural, including consideration of community feedback, maintenance and play, and after a first round of votes, mural numbers 1, 2 and 5 were eliminated. A motion was made by Emily Lancot to proceed with the final four murals, including numbers 3, 4, 6 and 7, seconded by Steven Hughes. A second round of discussion on remaining mural selections was conducted by all members, considering community feedback, maintenance, potential revisions and play; another vote was conducted, further narrowing selections to numbers 4, 6, and 7. After extensive discussion regarding murals 4, 6, and 7, a motion was made by Emily Lancot to omit number 7 due to visual and maintenance concerns, seconded by Steven Hughes. Five members in favor, one not in favor. Final voting round proceeded with discussion of needed revisions for each mural. After considering feedback, revisions and maintenance, mural number 6 was selected unanimously by members. Emily Lancot made a motion to move selection 6 forward for revision, seconded by Steven Hughes.

- b. Proposed revisions for chosen finalist – Discussion of slight color change to tone down brightness/contrast in colors of mural number 6.
- c. Review of Queen City Court (QCC) contract – Steven Hughes discusses contract/final edits and will send to group for final review.
- 2. Creative Neighborhoods
 - a. Locations – Not discussed
 - b. Discuss process as funding is not able to be used for art to be placed on private property.

IX. New Business

None

X. Committee Reports

- 1. Public Art Inventory/Outreach – No update.
- 2. Public Art Guidelines – No update.

3. Policy and Maintenance – Discussed pausing this report until MPAC is able to bring in professional.
4. Artist Handbook – Motion made by Emily to remove handbook until more appropriate time, seconded by Steven.

XI. Good of the Order

Steven expresses thanks and gratitude to Tracy and Tiina for all of the work put into the QCC project. Tracy and Emily express thanks Tiina. Kristina inquires if community members are able to assist with mural project. No formal mural announcement at this time; must go before City Commission and contract must be approved/signed. Linnea discussed supporting art education in public schools. Linnea to contact Jake Feather to collaborate on letter of support.

XII. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 10:29PM.

Next scheduled regular meeting will be 5/12/2021 at 6:30PM.

Respectfully submitted by Maureen Tyrrell.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Tyrrell', is written in a cursive style.