

CITY OF MARQUETTE PUBLIC ART COMMISSION MINUTES

City of Marquette Arts and Culture Center

May 11, 2022

6:30pm

Meeting began at 6:38 PM.

Present: Kristina Behrens, Steven Hughes, Tracy Wascom, Tiina Morin, Amy Stephens.

I. Call to Order

Chairperson, Tracy Wascom, called meeting to order at 6:38 PM.

II. Roll Call

Present: Kristina Behrens, Steven Hughes, Tracy Wascom.

Absent: Linnea Gustafson (excused)

III. Consent Agenda/Approval Minutes

All were in favor – approved.

IV. Public Comment

Amy Stephens introduced herself and shared she is looking to get involved. She moved back from Seattle to Marquette approximately five months ago, so would not yet be eligible to join as a Commissioner. She was previously involved with research for the Cultural Trail while a student at NMU.

V. MPAC Chair Report

Tracy Wascom shared that a student had informed her of the Midwest Sculpture Initiative, an opportunity to rotate through sculpture exhibits. This will be added to the agenda for a future monthly MPAC meeting to discuss in greater detail.

VI. Manager Report

Tiina Morin highlighted that the student art show is ongoing, featuring a great diversity of students. Reception is May 12th from 6-8pm. The MACC is busy with Art Week planning and preparation. Tiina will give a walking tour of public art during Art Week and lead into a Cultural Trail tour. *Lake Superior Magazine* is featuring an article about it. The economic impact study for the Arts & Culture Alliance is underway to capture surveys at events over the year. Grant request writing is in progress for Art Week and staging an outside bandshell for next year.

Tiina was approached with a request to see if MPAC would consider opining on the future of a trail marker at Mount Marquette. Tiina will obtain additional details, including the origin of the existing metal piece (if significant) and source of funding for the project. This will be added to the June MPAC agenda for further discussion, including MPAC's role, if any, and a potential public art installation at this site.

VII. Old Business

1. Queen City Courts update [Tiina]

- a. Vendor JCS selected to paint the lines. Targeting week of August 21st for installation. Tiina will check if the artists have a plan for the backboards yet.
- 2. Creative Parks update [Tiina]
 - a. One question received, unfortunately there were no submissions. Discussed potential alterations for future rounds, such as an initial verbal brainstorming/interview round with artists, longer submission deadlines, having a theme (rather than being completely open ended), better visual promotion on social media, different time of year (winter?). Tiina mentioned there is potential for an artist residency program at this site in the future, but nothing finalized yet.
- 3. MPAC signage updates [Tracy]
 - a. Tracy will proceed with preferred option of obtaining three bids from local companies, even though budget is less than \$2,000.
 - b. Production would be on hold until Kristina hears back from artists within the city jurisdiction whose pieces still need to be named.
- 4. Artist Directory [Kristina / Tiina]
 - a. Kristina has been in contact with approximately seven artists from the spreadsheet of publicly accessible art that was started by MACC office. Will let the group know if she is unable to get in touch with any of the artists, to see if others have contact. MPAC finalized the desired content sought from artists for inclusion in the directory.
 - b. The goal is to finalize the information from responsive artists by the start of June in order to have it loaded into Artsopolis format and launched for Art Week.
- 5. Cultural Trail, Indigenous Art Project(s) [Tiina]
 - a. Tiina is finalizing offer paperwork for the Our Town grant. Current MPAC budget for indigenous art project is \$60,000.
 - b. Tiina has arranged a meeting with KBIC Cultural Committee at the end of May, and Tracy will join. The purpose of the meeting is to get input on what KBIC would like to see with the project.
 - c. Tiina shared that a Cultural Trail Committee has formed. Goal is to have one sign at each determined location telling the story of that site (dual language).
 - d. MPAC would target preparing an RFP for the indigenous maker's art piece by fall 2022.
 - e. Tracy will circulate a Google doc with questions for the meeting (given timing of the meeting with KBIC, this will take place prior to next regularly scheduled MPAC meeting)

VIII. New Business

- 1. Outreach & Promotion; general and membership to MPAC and Friends of MPAC
 - a. Agreed to have a presence during Art Week.
 - b. Postcards – Materials to distribute would be postcards featuring public art work(s) on one side and information about MPAC on the back, especially upcoming meeting dates. Also discussed adding a QR code that is linked to Venmo to accept fundraising/donations for Friends of MPAC (bank account

and EIN already established). Tracy volunteered to draft a design and Tiina will confirm lead time needed to print in advance of Art Week.

- c. Tiina will connect with Amy Stephens to establish a Venmo account. Kristina Behrens suggested Square as well for on-the-spot fundraising, and Tiina will ask the City if there is a preference, even if technically for Friends of MPAC.
2. RFP Conflict of Interest considerations post-MPAC participation; policy discussion
 - a. Introduced the topic. Suggestions for a period of time during which former MPAC Commissioners would be ineligible to submit works for consideration in public art projects ranged greatly. This will be added to June MPAC agenda for further discussion.
3. Recruitment of new member to fill MPAC vacancies; progress report
 - a. One artist slot is open and two community member slots. Potential members must live within City of Marquette. MPAC is currently recruiting.
4. Lower Harbor pier redevelopment; “Spear Dock”
 - a. Space(s) dedicated for public art
 - i. Where, how many, any pre-set foundations in place. (north and south piers)?
 1. North Pier –
 - a. Circular area selected as the site for an installation by an indigenous maker highlighting the themes of land acknowledgement and treaty information. Motioned by Steven Hughes, seconded by Linnea Gustafson. All were in favor. An open question (see section “b” below) is around the handling of a potential pedestal or foundation, and MPAC will reference in the future RFP depending on the feedback from GEI.
 - b. A few questions were raised for further investigation. Tristan will check with GEI for feedback. Specifically, 1) does a concrete foundation for large-scale artwork need to be poured during initial construction, or can it be added later; 2) how tall is the illustrated curved wall (or bench) around the roundabout area; 3) one of the cul-de-sac drawings shows a deciduous tree that does not appear elsewhere; are there still plans for this.
 - c. If a window to look down into the water is to be built, proposal to incorporate an art component there as well.
 2. South Pier –
 - a. Discussed small scale garden artwork, which would not require any dedicated pre-poured concrete or large site prep. Motioned by Kristina Behrens, seconded by Steven Hughes. All were in favor.
 - ii. How many benches; minimum and ideally
 - a. South Pier – proposed that ten benches would be ideal, with six as a minimum – in a staggered configuration

either way. Motioned by Steven Hughes, seconded by Linnea Gustafson. All were in favor.

- b. North Pier – a question was raised whether there are any plans for benches on the North Pier. Tristan will follow up with GEI to confirm.
- b. Dedicated area for public art incorporating Land Acknowledgment & Treaty information; approximate size, location
 - i. Discussed in “North Pier” section above.

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

- 1. Friends of Marquette Public Art Commission – No update.
- 2. Public Art Inventory/Outreach/Artsopolis – Compass has been growing organically. Still waiting on the public art directory to go live (dependent in part on Artist Directory work). Plan to launch for Art Week 2022.
- 3. Policy and Maintenance – No update, still have only one proposal.

X. Good of the Order

None.

XI. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Next scheduled regular meeting will be June 8, 2022, at 6:30PM.

Submitted by Kristina Behrens.



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