

**MINUTES
OF
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
APRIL 17, 2017
AUDITORIUM
6:30 pm**

Present: Anderson, Bullock, Marks, Nowlin, O’Leary, O’Malley
Mr. Litten absent

Also Present: Executive Assistant to the Mayor Shannon Strachan, Achala Wali, Katelyn Milius, Lee Norris, from Mayor’s Office, Katlin Bryce Sylvester, M. Hagan recording minutes.

Communication from Councilmember Bullock regarding Determining the next phase of work for the Lakewood Public Arts Task Force and initiating a public arts pilot project or projects in 2017. (REFERRED TO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 3/6/17)

Chair O’Leary calls the meeting to order 6:32 PM.

He referenced the one topic on the agenda and also an email provided to members of Council from Ian Andrews of Lakewood Alive. (Letter attached to minutes)

Introductory remarks by Mr. O’Leary included that the discussion is a re-starting of discussions that began a couple years ago about public art; what it means for the City in terms of many different media it entails; visual, performing and others.

Chair O’Leary indicated that he would turn the meeting over to Mr. Bullock indicating a PowerPoint was to be provided. (PowerPoint attached to minutes)

Committee member Bullock thanked to Councilmembers who responded to his add-on request at the end of Budget Hearings for a down payment towards an initial public art project in 2017 as recommended by the Public Arts Task Force. He indicated that he did appreciate that that funding recommendation was unanimous.

Ms. Strachan provided for an overview of Public Task Force recommendations – (9)
(provided on screen) In October:

(Did not read all shown on screen) Recommendation #1 Create a public art committee
Recommendation #2 Determine goals & strategies for publicly commissioned projects vs. Privately commissioned projects in public spaces
Recommendation #3 Identify source(s) of funding for publicly commissioned projects
Recommendation #4 Make it somebody’s job
Recommendation #5 Identify priority projects
Recommendation #6 Balance Lakewood’s art collection through a combination of permanent, temporary, and programmatic arts investments
Recommendation #7 Help build capacity of local artists
Recommendation #8 Start small
Recommendation #9 Build off of existing cultural assets.

Ms. Strachan focused specified item 8 – “let’s do a project, start small”, start letting community know openness to public art, (where Task Force was at in October)

Referencing Mr. Bullock’s questions :

I.How the public arts task force might continue its work in a “phase two”

II.How to initiate in 2017 a pilot public art project (or projects – for example one permanent, one temporary or programmatic), a concept supported by council in our 2017 budget resolution

Ms. Strachan indicated the Task Force challenge to limit the media choices so as not be overwhelmed and move forward on potential first project – landing on possibility for murals, lighting, wayfinding and park enhancement.

Murals were looked at from Task Force, Park enhancement was part of Planning & Development.

Ms. Milius referenced Ian Andrews letter from Lakewood Alive - Project along Warren between Detroit and Franklin. Grant from County was secured to have public art at the south west corner. Along the corridor and also from the RTA to incorporate public art on the bus shelter. This was considered in progress and likely to happen this year.

Another potential project was included; with Virginia Marti - timing not sure at this time but Virginia Marti was looking at coordination with their construction wrapping (incorporating public art) and looking for the City to support that as well if it happens in 2017.

A third potential project; working with various city groups – like Fire for the Wagar Park Master Plan; proposed closing Rosewood Avenue - to pilot potential project – proposed a street mural on the street and then closing the street with self-watering planters at either end. She indicated that this would not only serving as a pilot for the street closure project but also be a great amenity in the City while waiting to upgrade the park. Have been in coordination with Seattle and Burlington, Vermont who have done similar projects with great success.

Ms. Milius indicated - this would all be to

I.Test process for public art

II.Get the word out; show the that the city is excited about public art and very open to the community’s ideas of incorporating it into our projects

III.Work towards Public Art Guidelines & Procedures that we would publish; we’ve been looking at best practices like places like Minneapolis and Burlington, Vermont and what they’ve published.

She indicated a lot of it involves providing forms and processes to the community for them to implement projects on their buildings.

How the public arts task force might continue its work in a “phase two”

I. To share public art initiatives and identify artists to reach out to (they have great networks)

II. To serve on panels to review proposals and make recommendations (project specific)

How the public arts task force might continue its work in a “phase two”

Comments and Questions after PowerPoint

Mr. Bullock stated he would like Council’s input as far as committing dollars; He indicated too that he would like to see a physical project completed this year as well as one programmatic project (ex. Porch concerts) other too – either temporary or performance based art. He indicated both should be tried and both were called out in the report form last year.

Mr. Bullock indicted he had a pending legal matter - What does the Public Arts Task Force do now – referencing their Charter indicates the time-frame may have expired and what is their final work product.

Mr. Bullock indicated that in formal art there is something that extends beyond City government; goes to private sector, goes to the community, goes to Arts and funders; City would be well served by having a brain trust; the people still online- still helping City getting this up and running. He suggested possibility of the Task Force moving to permanent Committee .

Mr. Bullock suggested that Council does not let the Public Arts Task Force dissipate just yet and use them in Phase II to help City launch whatever pilot projects will be.

Ms. Marx recognized public art as an asset to the City. She specifically referenced public art that is shown on occasion on internet regarding Utility boxes. She indicated questions as far as private company owned utility boxes but indicated she would really like to incorporate city-owned utility boxes.

Ms. Strachan indicated that research was done across the country with AT&T and indicated that it didn’t look like that people have had successes with their boxes. She did indicated they did find lots of examples of public art being done on utility boxes owned by a city or owned by Regional Transit Authority in that area. She indicated that Lakewood, unfortunately had utility boxes that were somewhat smaller (referencing slide)

Ms. Marx indicated that she saw benefit of incorporating public art in any space even if small and could be very creative. Ms. Marx stated that some of the research she did was that on occasion there types of “skins” placed over the utility boxes. She wanted to follow up with AT&T - indicating the letter she received and was copies – indicated a certain kind of paint diffuses the heat; would like to pursue – even local paint companies could come up with ideas on types of paint to use. She continued that if the City was going to be infiltrated with the boxes that it was important to investigate them as possible canvasses for public art. Specifically mentioning Madison Park – that another box would not look idea.

Lee Norris referenced work in public art for Cleveland. He added that forming a Committee made a lot of sense. Any one of the projects mentioned he indicated were do-able – a variety of projects with a good understanding of building a process alongside; documenting what’s working and what’s not would be critical. The scale as far as working with Cleveland and working with Lakewood – how big, what’s available – how bold City can get in any given moment. He indicated he liked projects highlighted even if small (construction wrap). Mr. Norris also expressed appreciation of mention that even small spaces provide opportunities.

Meeting adjourned 7:30 PM.