CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA

Public Art Committee Meeting
October 6, 2023

The Public Art Committee met in formal session at 11:00 A.M., Friday, October 6, 2023, in the Alcazar Room at City Hall. The meeting was called to order by Roxanne Horvath, Chairman, and the following were present:

1. ROLL CALL:

Roxanne Horvath
David Bagnall
Julie Dickover
Diane Mataraza
Christina Parrish-Stone

Also Present:

David Birchim, City Manager
Isabelle Lopez, City Attorney
Darlene Galambos, City Clerk
Elyse Anderson, Recording Secretary

2. General Public Comment

Steve Arflin
Bob Hrifko

3. Welcome Team and Receipt of Resumes

Commissioner Horvath noted that resumes of the Committee members were provided for review.

4. Discussion of Qualifications

Commissioner Horvath thanked Ms. Dickover for her hard work regarding the Request for Qualifications (RFQ). She asked if there were any comments or additions that the committee felt should be added. She said she felt there should be more information regarding the history of St. Augustine, something that spoke to the uniqueness of the City, and an overview of this particular project.

Ms. Mataraza said she thought an addendum could be added to include the historical content. She asked if the language could include that the 'Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) or County Public Works Department might assist' regarding the budget description which says what the artist would be responsible. She said to help address the public comment regarding distractions, visible signage could be added.

Ms. Lopez referred to the FDOT manual which noted certain limitations to address distraction. She said it was a FDOT road; however, the City's Public Works department worked with FDOT and would relay any concerns.

Ms. Mataraza mentioned it was important to include that the art piece would exist in a flood plain.

Commissioner Horvath noted the art piece location was intended to collect water. She said the base of the piece would, in a grassy pond, sometimes in water but often dry.

Ms. Mataraza noted in the 'selection criteria it needed to be emphasized that community engagement was needed, and the artist should have success leading community engagement sessions. She said it was critical for the artist to listen to valuable feedback from the public.

Ms. Parrish-Stone said it should be clarified in the “project overview” that proposals would not be created in a silo. She said the artist would hold community meetings before presenting to the committee for review. She noted in the last meeting, they discussed that the artist would travel to St. Augustine prior to presenting the proposal to gather public input.

Ms. Dickover stated she would update that section in the criteria.

Ms. Parrish-Stone said there was concern on social media about placing art in this location as it could be a distraction. She suggested including language about distractions and advising the artist that the art will be in a wet location.

5. Review of Aerials

Commissioner Horvath reviewed the aerials with the Committee and noted the location of the art piece. She said when added to the Request for Proposal (RFP) the graphics needed to be detailed.

Ms. Lopez said FDOT plans with measurements were available and could be added to the packet.

Commissioner Horvath said the artwork would be halfway between the two roads and visible.

At the request of Commissioner Horvath, Mr. Birchim replied there were a variety of different disciplines under continuing service contracts that were available. He said with a little more detail he was certain there would be a discipline to accommodate.

Ms. Matarza commented that she had reached out to some colleagues in other cities and was waiting for feedback from them regarding timelines.

6. Discussion of $250,000 Budget Approval

Commissioner Horvath noted the $250,000 budget had been approved for the art piece.

7. Update on Selection Criteria and Process

Ms. Dickover advised she used many different sources to write the Selection Criteria including the one from Port St. Lucie that was provided at the last meeting. She said this was a draft and any feedback was welcome. She said she felt the information should be made extremely clear for the artist.

Ms. Mataraza said the criteria was difficult to explain and hoped the information provided from the other cities could be useful.

Ms. Parrish-Stone noted this was a great start; however, she questioned if there was a better way to provide feedback instead of drafting and revising during the meeting.

Ms. Lopez noted if the committee had any comments or edits, they could be sent to Ms. Galambos, the City Clerk or to herself. She said those could be compiled and provided at the November meeting.

Commissioner Horvath felt it would be better to have the draft prior to the November meeting.

Ms. Lopez said it could be distributed individually to each committee member as the information came in or complied with and provided two weeks prior. She said the issues was they were unable to discuss among the committee members.

Commissioner Horvath thought having the information two weeks prior would be the best.

Ms. Lopez said everything would be provided to the committee two weeks prior and then discussed at the November meeting.

Ms. Parrish-Stone suggested having a new draft version of the criteria provided by Ms. Dickover for review at the following meeting.

Ms. Dickover agreed to provide the new draft version with all the comments for the next meeting.

8. Update on Methods of Advertising

Ms. Mataraza suggested using the suggestions as provided in the email the Native Arts and Cultures Foundation and US Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Tribal Colleges and University networks that had arts degrees programs, National Assembly State Arts agency based in Washington, D.C. She said there were other regional arts locations that were dedicated to art and Café could also be a way to advertise.

Ms. Lopez noted once the committee decided how to proceed City staff would take care of the advertising. She said she appreciated any contact information that could be provided. She said this would have to be published on standard government sites for Request for Proposals (RFP) or RFQ's; however, she understood this project was more of a specialty.

Ms. Parrish-Stone advised her organization could assist with Café. She noted that her agency worked closely with other arts agencies in Florida, and they posted artist calls for them and they would reciprocate. She said they would be able to reach the Florida artist and South Arts could assist with Southeastern Artist and other regional arts agencies could help too.

Commissioner Horvath noted the Resolution provided was for an art donation.

Ms. Lopez noted that at the last meeting it was discussed that the City would have to have complete control over the art piece because of the location. She provided the standard operating procedures for art donations. She suggested at the next meeting the committee could provide feedback regarding the Resolution and if there were any adjustments that needed to be made.

9. Additional Matters for Discussion

Ms. Lopez confirmed that the next meeting would take place on November 3, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. She said the meeting after that would be December 1,2023.

There was consensus to have the December 1, 2023, meeting start at 9:00 a.m.

Commissioner Horvath noted that feedback should be provided to Ms. Lopez or Ms. Galambos by October 20, 2023.

Ms. Parrish- Stone asked if the Resolution and other documents provided were designed for donations of artwork. She said in this instance the City would be purchasing the art from the artist. She said the City had created the Committee and decided to acquire the art piece and the money was budgeted. She said no other Resolutions were needed other than the Commission selecting the piece. She said the documents attached could be revised if needed.

Ms. Lopez replied that was correct, and other changes may be needed.

Ms. Mataraza stated Randy Rorak had a tremendous amount of experience with public art and asked if he could be an advisor for the committee.

Ms. Lopez suggested it would be best for him to be a guest speaker. She asked if there would be enough information ready for review by the November meeting or the December meeting.

Ms. Mataraza asked if that information be provided as developed by the committee and offered expertise.

Ms. Lopez said he could be added to the next two agendas as a guest speaker.

Ms. Mataraza noted she had the contact information for him but thought it was best if the City reached out to him.

Ms. Lopez said a full packet could be provided to him for November and December, and that he could be a recurring speaker on the agenda.

10. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 A.M.