

Minutes

Audio Tape Nos. 642

The City Council of the City of Leawood, Kansas, met for a Special Call Meeting at City Hall, 4800 Town Center Drive, at 6:30 P.M., on Tuesday, September 7, 2004. Mayor Peggy Dunn presided.

Councilmembers present: Scott Gulledge, Jim Rawlings, Mike Gill, Gregory Peppes, Louis Rasmussen, Gary L. Bussing, Debra Filla and James E. Taylor, Sr.

Councilmembers absent: None.

Staff present: Scott Lambers, City Administrator
Chris Claxton, Park & Recreation Director
Diane Binckley, Planning & Development Director
Jeff Cantrell, Neighborhood Services Administrator
Deb Harper, City Clerk

Others present: Mary Tearney, Arts Council Committee Chair
Dr. Ann Kenney, Public Art Committee Chair
Dennis Reynolds, Public Art Committee Member

1. Discuss Art Master Plan

Mayor Dunn called the meeting to order. Chris Claxton stated there was a desire of the Arts Council and the Public Art Sub-committee to establish a clear direction for the Committee. A work session was conducted in March and another will follow in October to continue this process. The Staff then conducted a power point presentation that encompassed the mission and goals and strategies of the Art Council as it relates to the Art Master Plan.

Ms. Claxton advised the Art Guideline Policy currently allows for \$5.00 per resident to be placed in the Art Fund. There is also the private development fee which is being collected, which is \$.10 per square foot, for non-residential development. This development fee must be spent within five [5] years following the completion of the project.

The Mayor wanted to clarify that public art comes out of the \$5.00 per resident that is collected. The Stage Company production and other related productions comes out of the \$5.00 collection, which Ms. Claxton stated that all of the funds are not specifically targeted for public art. Dr. Kenney stated approximately \$50,000 per year is available for public art.

Ms. Claxton stated the most recent piece of art the City acquired is Llooppi, located in City Park. The Committee had a workshop met in March to discuss the ongoing preparation for the evaluation commission of public art and the benchmark programs.

Councilmember Rasmussen thanked the committee for their efforts as it relates to public art. He stated he is concerned about the building up of the reserve fund. He stated in order to acquire good art pieces, it wasn't out of the question to spend over \$50,000 on one art piece. Additionally, he would like to see art pieces placed in areas that are high traffic visual areas. Again, he reiterated his concern about building up too large a reserve fund for public art and will become a concern to citizens and encouraged to committee to expedite their program.

Dr. Kenney although there is a significant amount of funds in reserves, the committee has a well planned program to use all of the funds available. The Committee is currently reviewing the placement of the art pieces.

Councilmember Gill complimented the Staff in the prepared packet of information that was distributed to the Council for this meeting. Mr. Gill stated he concurs with Councilmember Rasmussen in the respect of expediting the program; however does not feel placing the art pieces in the most high traffic areas is the best plan. Art pieces have been placed in pedestrian walk areas in Ward Three . Mr. Gill stated if the Bi-State question is approved in the November 2, 2004, election, this Committee would probably take on a bigger role in the community. Mary Tearney stated she and Dr. Kenney are actively involved in the Bi-State project; adding there are parts of the Bi-State question that still have to be clarified as how cities will get a portion of the Bi-State funds, if approved in November.

Councilmember Gill asked Diane Binckley if the Planning & Development Department could work in tandem with the Arts Committee to review not only entrance points into the City, but also entrance points in the community that are signature marks [135th & Mission Road] located within the City, that art pieces or monuments could be placed. Dr. Kenney stated this is already being done and various neighborhoods with different characteristics are being considered and looked at.

Ms. Binckley stated tonight's presentation will also be presented to the Planning Commission to further involve the members in this process.

Councilmember Bussing stated he is in favor of Mr. Gill's recommendation regarding 135th & Mission Road. Mr. Bussing also stated he agrees with Mr. Gill, pertaining to the placement of where the art pieces will be located. Mr. Bussing would like to have a discussion in the future regarding the leverage of the investment in art and then develop a plan. He is not in favor of having public art funds being spent at the amphitheatre. A lot of the expense that needs to be spent at the amphitheatre is for infrastructure, which should not come out of the public art fund, even though the amphitheatre is a public art facility. Dr. Kenney assured Mr. Bussing that none of the public art fund would be used for the infrastructure expense on the amphitheatre. Ms. Kenney also advised the committee has discussed ways in which to get some investment return on the money.

Councilmember Filla asked that when the art work was being evaluated by the Committee that they keep in mind parks, lakes, and the greenery surrounding both, which she considers visual art. She is in favor of placing art at the entrance points and would be in favor of expanding upon the existing 'decorative' lighting features that the City currently has. Additionally, she suggested the Arts Committee make a concerted effort to work with some area Homes Associations in discussing possible locations for the placement of art pieces.

Councilmember Taylor stated he has concerns regarding the selection process of the abstract and modern art pieces and feels the Committee needs to interject more balance in their decision. He stated the retaining wall located at 124th & Roe could have been utilized as a competitive art project. Mr. Taylor asked about the procedure or policy for maintaining the art pieces. Ms. Tearney stated the policy requires 10% of the total amount be held aside to assist in the maintenance of the art.

Councilmember Peppes asked if the Arts Council is requiring that the art pieces be placed on public property and have the city own it and maintain. He stated businesses have been encouraged instead of paying their arts fees, to place art pieces on their property, and not necessarily on property owned or maintained by the City. Dr. Kenney stated in order for the art pieces to satisfy the public impact fee stipulations, the owner would need to deed it over to the City.

Mayor Dunn thanked the Committee and the staff for all of their hard work on this project. She also wanted to remind the members regarding the public-private partnership, that the Leawood Foundation is always trying to find ways to assist with raising funds for different projects and encouraged the Committee to contact the Leawood Foundation.

Ms. Tearney stated the Committee's first priority was to formulate their Master Plan. Once that is accomplished they can move on to other areas and be able to explain their objective to other organizations.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 P.M.

Deb Harper, CMC, City Clerk