

AKRON PUBLIC ART COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Andy calls the meeting to order at 4:05

1. Roll Call

- a. Present: Andy Hillier, Jon Fiume, Katie Beck, Stephanie Leonardi, Roberta Rogers, and Megan DeLong.
- b. Absent: Jessica Travis, Larissa Brown, and Erik Reynolds.

2. Approval of the Meeting Minutes From February 14, 2024

- a. Katie Beck motions to approve the minutes. Megan DeLong seconds. The motions passed with all yeses.

3. Old Business

a. Traffic signal boxes

- i. Summer notes that the request for proposals (RFP) for the traffic signal boxes has been approved.
- ii. The call for artists and their proposals still needs to be worked on and finalized. Jon mentions that the window to push the call for artists was set to open April 1st in the last meeting. There should be an attempt to push it out on the Friday before March 29th. Summer will coordinate with the communications team.
- iii. The Submittable is done through the internal information technology department. Each application is done through Submittable to ensure all the applications are together in one place.

b. The band app

- i. Discussion of how the band app will be used for receiving quicker feedback on products and documents created by the public art commission.

c. Traffic signal box Location

- i. Andy transitions the discussion to traffic signal boxes. The plan is to have 2 per ward, per the February 14th meeting of the PAC.
- ii. Commission comments on the exact location of the traffic signal boxes in each ward based on the data provided in the February 14th meeting.
- iii. Jon says he can go in person to look at some of the locations to see if there are obstructions that would prevent viewing of the boxes.

Roberta says she has looked at some of the boxes: one having writing already on the box and another seeming smaller than the average box. Roberta asks whether the committee is looking for a specific size box. Summer says they vary in size and the presentation was based on the highest-trafficked intersections. The commission will present the information on the highest trafficked intersections so the committee can then view these areas.

4. Public comment
 - a. No public comment
5. Summer introduces grant
 - a. Jon offers to have the public art museum grant writer look at any grants.
 - b. Summer describes the grant: it is for the first annual cultural week of action on race and democracy. It was brought to Summer's attention. The \$25,000 to \$40,000-dollar grant is focused on building relationships around race and equity. The deadline is March 29, 2024.
 - c. Katie asks what the money can be used for. The money could be used for an event or an art piece, as long as there is collaboration with the community and racial justice. The theme is Building a Bigger We.
 - d. Summer proposed the idea of doing the retaining wall on Main Street and Thornton.
 - e. There is the possibility to do an art experience and also host an event that talks about racial injustice in the art and how these injustices were changed.
 - f. Andy and Jessica both agree this is a viable and intriguing option. They recommend contacting local businesses in the area for support and suggestions. The grant would send notice of acceptance by May. The ask would be to read over the documents and come up with a proposal the grant writers could fine-tune by the deadline.
6. Public Art Events
 - a. Katie mentions North Hill CDC has coloring books looking for ideas along the South Street Heritage installation.
 - b. Jessica mentions there will be an audible book and craft event at Compass Coffee Shop on March 26th.
7. Katie motioned to adjourn the meeting and Larissa Brown seconded.
 - a. All voted yes and the meeting was adjourned.