

**City of Brighton
Arts & Culture Commission Minutes
Special Meeting - March 21, 2011**

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Roblee called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. and the roll call was taken:

Claudia Roblee – Present
Tim Cusick – Present
MJ Takagi – Present

Larry Lawrence – Present
Kris Tobbe – Present

Also present was Lauri French and Matt Modrack from City Staff.

2. Approval of the March 21, 2011 Agenda

Moved by Larry Lawrence, seconded by MJ Takagi, to approve the March 21, 2011 agenda as presented. The motion carried 5-0.

3. Call to the Public

Call to the public was made at 4:07 p.m. Hearing no response, call to the public was closed.

New Business

4. Discuss with the artists the top two selections from the Request for Proposal for Commissioned Sculpture at the “Pocket Park” at 205 W. Grand River (corner of St. Paul).

Erik and Israel Nordin were present to discuss their submission of three sculptures for the pocket park and to answer questions from the BACC members concerning engineering, design, materials and budget. They described how “Currents” would be built using inner and outer rows of rods that would inhibit “swinging” the outside row of rods and possibly damaging the sculpture. They also provided an additional drawing on their laptop computer of the design. The original concept was that “Currents” would be located in the middle of the park, but after another visit prior to today’s meeting, they suggest that it be located at the west end of the park instead with “Recycle” in the middle. They brought examples of the tubing and “chimes” for “Flex” as well as examples of the glass that would be used for all three pieces. The members had some questions about how “Recycle” would move; while it will move slightly with the wind, it has been designed to be moved by hand to position the glass in different locations and catch the light differently depending on the time of day. They also passed around pictures of examples of their work at restaurants, homes and businesses and invited the BACC members to visit their studio in Detroit. They can provide references upon request. They are flexible on the payment schedule; typically they receive 50% down upon award and the balance upon completion but they would be willing to do 30% down, 30% halfway through and 30% balance upon functional completion by May 31, 2011.

The BACC members then met with Mike Monroe and Bruce Donovan beginning at 4:50 p.m. to review Mike’s submission of “Blue Heron in Flight”. The sculpture will be approximately 16 feet high with a 7-foot span wingtip to wingtip for the heron. The sculpture curves approximately 2 ½ feet from the base. They plan a pivot point where the bird joins the sculpture which would be spring loaded to return it to its original location. Mike envisions the sculpture would be installed closest to Grand River with the belly of the heron pointed toward the 205 West building. The arch would be anchored to the base with u-bolts; the base would be concrete dyed black. The arch will be sheet metal painted with airplane enamel. The heron will also be painted with airplane

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enamel using blue, black and gold. Bruce Donovan noted that they had talked about having the heron wings “flex” in the wind to make it look like they’re flapping. Mike noted that if he was selected, he would provide a second sculpture out of the leftover material from “Heron” to be donated to the City and that he would provide drawings to the BACC prior to beginning work on the sculpture. For the payment schedule, Mike would prefer 50% down and 50% upon completion and installation of the sculpture by May 31, 2011.

The BACC members discussed both artists’ submissions taking into consideration what they learned at today’s meeting and the pros and cons of both submissions.

Moved by MJ Takagi, seconded by Tim Cusick, to select and award the Nordin brothers’ submission of “Flex”, “Currents” and “Recycle” for the commissioned artwork for the pocket park at the corner of St. Paul and Grand River. Motion carried 4-1.

Moved by Kris Tobbe, seconded by MJ Takagi, to pay the Nordin brothers (Detroit Design Studio) in three installments of 1/3 at contract signing, 1/3 halfway through the project (April 2011) and 1/3 upon completion of the project (functional installation). Motion carried 5-0.

Staff was requested to follow up with the MEDC regarding the payment of one-half of the \$10,000 grant (this was supposed to have been received 30 days after execution of the grant agreement, which was 12/1/10). Lauri French was asked who had signed the grant agreement – City Manager Foster or the DDA; she will check on this and advise. Staff was also asked to get a copy of a contract from the Nordin brothers from one of their other commissioned pieces to use as an example for our contract. Matt Modrack noted that this may require Council approval and, if it does, it should be put on the April 7, 2011 Council consent agenda. Claudia Roblee noted that Council and the DDA had already approved the application and the site plan for the pocket park showing the locations for the artwork and perhaps this could be approved administratively. Larry Lawrence requested that the thank you letter to Mike Monroe contain a request by the BACC to strongly encourage him to participate in future calls to artists.

5. Call to the Public

Call to the public was made at 6:10 p.m.; hearing no response, Call to the Public was closed.

10. Adjournment

Moved by Kris Tobbe, seconded by Larry Lawrence, to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 p.m. The motion carried 5-0.

Lauri French, Administrative Assistant
Community Development Department
March 21, 2011

Next Regular BACC Meeting – Monday, April 11, 2011 – 4:00 p.m. – Council Chambers