

Oregon City Arts Commission

March 17, 2022

7:00 PM

Minutes

In Attendance

Commissioners

Trieste Andrews (Chair)

Selena Jones*

Emma Lugo

Josh Planton

Tammy Jo Wilson

Jenn Woodward

Oregon City Staff

James Graham

Daniel Gering

Dayna Webb

Carrie Richter

Guest

Lynda Orzen*

Not able to attend

Mary Andrus

Karen Buerhig

Tima Carlson (Vice Chair)

*Participants attended online via Zoom

Due to an initial delay Commissioner Andrews was not in attendance and Commissioner Carlson was not able to attend, Commissioner Lugo requested that a consensus vote for a temporary Chair for the meeting until Commissioner Andrews could arrive be made.

Commissioner Wilson nominated Commissioner Lugo. Commissioner Planton seconded. 5 Aye 0 Nay.

Commissioner Wilson convened the meeting

Roll Call

Adoption of the Agenda – Commissioner Planton motioned to approved, Commissioner Wilson seconded. 5 Aye 0 Nay

Public Comment – None

Approval of the Minutes – Retreat Notes and February Meeting Minutes, Commissioner Woodward motioned to approve both, Commissioner Planton seconded. 5 Aye 0 Nay

Presentation: Molalla Ave Decorative Cross Street Banner Art Selection – Dayna Webb (Slides can be found in the meeting packet)

Update presentation related to the selection of art to be added to the cross-street poles on Molalla Ave.

Three options were presented as designed by artist Ben Dye: Elevator silhouette (Option A), Abstract (Option B), Waterfall (Option C)

During the presentation Commissioner Andrews arrived and Commissioner Lugo returned the Commission chair back to Commissioner Andrews.

There was a question by Commissioner Wilson about the process and ability for the Commission to select on the art piece. City Legal Counsel Carrie Richter provided feedback clarifying that the Art Commission has been selected to make the final decision on this public art project for the City. Commission members then discussed their personal preferences for each of the options. It was decided early that Option C would be too small for an impactful display and ruled it out. Vote was conducted for Option A or Option B.

Final selection vote: Andrews – B, Jones - B, Lugo – A, Planton – B, Wilson – B, Woodward – B

Option A = 1, Option B = 5

Discussion Items

Mural Selection Process

City Council Carrie Richter started the discussion by requesting questions from the Commission about the criteria on the mural approval process. Staff provided a document that broke down the criteria based on the way the City Ordinance is written. A reminder that the evaluation of the content is beyond the purview of the Arts Commission.

Commissioner Lugo mentioned that as an artist their expertise generally focuses on content.

Commissioner Wilson explained the process that Commissioner Andrus and herself went through to develop the rubric and had the question on if the process could include applying the Oregon City Nuisance Code as the path in establishing the criteria of evaluation.

Commissioner Wilson explained the premise behind the creation of the rubric of evaluation for murals. The thought process initially looked how to create the criteria for evaluation and definition. Additional research was based on other cities structure of their mural process. Commissioner Wilson and Commissioner Andrus thought that the application of the Oregon City Nuisance Code could be applied as part of this evaluation to decide if the art was appropriate. City Council clarified that the evaluation of public art and a mural are two different processes. Evaluation of a mural is judicial evaluation guided by the City Ordinance. Art Commissioners had further discussion to get further clarification on who would be responsible for judging the content. The final decision rests on the consent of property owner to decide what content is acceptable on their property. There is a public notice process that can bring neighbors within 300ft, as well as any members of public during the public meeting. This allows them voice any concerns they have, but it still falls on the property owner to decide if they accept the content of the mural.

More discussion occurred about the role of an Arts Commissioner related to how they influence the submission of a mural application and their personal interests and when best to recuse themselves from the process.

Commissioner Planton asked if the public has any recourse in the mural application process, and staff explained about the public notification process and that citizens. During the application process citizens

can voice their concerns during an Arts Commission meeting which may or may not influence the artist or property owner.

Update on the Strategic Plan

Commissioner Planton updated the Commission on the status of the structure of the plan, the overview, and the introduction and the first section of the plan.

Clarification on the “discovery” phase was requested by Commissioner Planton. The Commission decided on what to focus on who to invite, how long for their presentation, and what questions may ask. Commissioner Planton agreed to help craft the initial questions. Staff will forward the questions to the Arts Commission members for modification.

Arts Commission members discussed focusing on how and when to survey the public. One challenge is that the National Arts and Culture Economic survey is going out in May, and it was suggested that the Commission may be something to be aware of.

There was further discussion on how the Arts Commission can participate in public art projects, funding, and process.

Appropriate Use of Art Commission Funds

Commissioner Andrews brought forward the idea of promoting a potential event. Commissioner Wilson and Commissioner Woodward express that it may be too early to be able to grant funds. There would need to be criteria set on how to decide what events would be supported that is fair and transparent.

Final Note

It was requested to staff to invite OC2040 and Downtown Oregon City Association to speak at the next Arts Commission meeting.

Please remember that if there are art events that happen in Oregon City, please forward them to Daniel Gering (dgering@orc.org) or can be submitted on travelOregonCity.com by going to the partner section on the footer of the home page. That way the Tourism division can promote the event in as many ways possible.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:52PM.