



CITY OF FRANKLIN

MINUTES

PUBLIC ART ADVISORY COMMISSION

August 12, 2021

Members Present:

Ken Kosky, President
Joshua Hendrickson, Vice President
Holly Johnston, Secretary
Nick Crisafulli
Jessica Giles
Gail Richards
Chrissy Robertson
Dave Windisch

Others Present:

Krista Linke Community Development Director
Dana Monson Community Development Specialist

Call to Order

Ken Kosky called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Roll Call & Determination of Quorum

Approval of Minutes

Holly Johnston made a motion to approve the July 8 minutes. Chrissy Robertson seconded. Passed unanimously, 8-0.

Old Business:

Ethos Arts Festival Update 8/28 – Jess Giles – Juried art fair attendees are finalized. There will be 25, an increase from last year. It will take place on North Main Street. Farmers Market will take place. Franklin Chamber of Commerce will have their Color Bash 5K Run in the morning. There are a number of community partners who will be represented by live art themed activities at their places of business whether live art demos, live music or kids' games. Event posters are distributed. The Canvas Clash artist competition will happen with food trucks, live music and beer and wine. The Franklin Symphonic Council has planned eight different culturally significant performances throughout the day. There will be beer and wine behind the courthouse. There is an invitation-only exclusive car show from 5-9 p.m. Ten vintage artists and vendors are committed so far.

Banner Program Update – Dana Monson – Spotlight Strategies has the artwork. Hardware is still not guaranteed, but they are working with the street department. The goal is still to have everything up before Ethos.



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New Business:

Water Tower Mural RFP Discussion – Dave Windisch would like the water tower to not be Americana (tractors, cornfields and Ben Franklin), repeating what is already elsewhere in the town. He would like it to not be a reflection of the community but an added attraction to the community. He would like to see the RFP give artists a blank slate to see what they come up with rather than what might be already expected. Unexpected scale examples such as a pencil, a cake with a slice out of it or a fishbowl with fish in it. He would also like it to be bright and bold. Ms. Robertson added the desire for a well-known artist outside of the local community. Mr. Windisch suggested Jay Ryan out of Evanston, Illinois and Adam Turman out of St. Paul, Minnesota. He will get their contact information to Ms. Monson. Ms. Robertson added Jonathon out of Cincinnati, known by Patrick Tisdale. Ms. Robertson also mentioned well-known mural artists in Indy and will send a website link highlighting them to everyone. Jess Giles believes bold and playful art in the amphitheater area is desired. Ms. Monson reminded that Indiana-American Water would like to see a tie-in to the Franklin community even as unique art is pursued.

External Affairs Manager Joe Loughmiller from Indiana-American Water spoke. He explained that they do not have something specific in mind and wants the community to do something that pleases them. He supported the conceptual comments that had been made. If there is a connection with Franklin, that is all to the good. Dave Elmer, engineering manager from Indiana-American Water, added that the tank has been inspected so dimensions can be provided. They will address maintaining security and tank access. Mr. Elmer also mentioned the Indianapolis consulting firm that did the inspection and that they could be a good resource going forward.

Ms. Johnston spoke in favor of Americana art and also the idea of an aquarium. Krista Linke spoke to the details for the RFP process with regards to artist qualifications and art concept and who has final approvals. Josh Hendrickson expressed that in telling an artist what to do you will never get anything better than what you told them and lose the element of artist surprise. Who makes the final decision on submittals is important for the artist to include in an RFP as well. There is a difference for an artist in how they pitch to a group of artists as opposed to government officials as an example. Ms. Monson would like suggested written RFP verbiage submitted to her from PACC members. Gail Richards likes art that make her think, bold colors and well-defined lines, and she has appreciation for 3D art especially with selfie opportunities. She would like the art to catch her attention each time it is observed. Nick Crisafulli observed that the currently written criteria for the mural theme will not result in image samples brought in by Ms. Johnston. Mr. Windisch doesn't believe Ms. Johnston's art samples to be Americana in theme. Mr. Crisafulli believed the criteria need to be worded to be open enough to receive artist submissions as vibrant as Ms. Johnston's examples. He liked the description of playful, opening up for colorful and bold artist submissions. Mr. Kosky would like to see samples provided to prospective artists of what PACC likes. Mr. Windisch believed that to be okay. Mr. Kosky asked if the artist will prepare the water tower surface or if it will be done for them before they complete the art. Mr. Loughmiller reported that the inspection cited the coating to be in good condition, but there will be surface preparation for the mural including the removal of the anti-graffiti coating on the lower portion



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of the tank. Also may need some surface preparation for the base of the mural, perhaps a change of color.

He recommended working with Tank Industries Consultants. He believed included in the RFP would be that the selected artist takes the tank in its current condition and gets it ready for the mural—cleaning, surface prep, base coat and the art. Mr. Kosky's experience is that the prep work is done for the artist. Ms. Robertson added that PAAC would then know it's done correctly. He would like to see images from Ms. Johnston's and his samples along with other members' submissions selected to present a potential gallery at next month's meeting. Mr. Kosky asked Mr. Windisch if he would submit a depiction of a cake with a piece out of it. Ms. Monson summarized how the group's input affected the actual structure and writing of the RFP and process going forward. Mr. Kosky asked if a point system is desired for the submissions. Ms. Richards supported ranking them by number initially and then an ultimate yes/no vote. All decision-making parties will collaborate together over the submissions at the same time. Discussion continued over the best adjectives to include in the RFP to describe the type of art desired. Ms. Giles confirmed a photo of the water tower will be included in the RFP. Indiana-American Water will get the dimensions and report sections sent to Ms. Monson in a couple of weeks. She also invited their feedback on the art.

Mr. Kosky suggested it would be helpful to have the mayor attend the September meeting.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, a motion for adjournment was made.

Respectfully submitted this 9th day of September, 2021,

Ken Kosky, President

Holly Johnston, Secretary