Approved as submitted

November 14, 2017
Room 215 City Hall
5:30 p.m.

I. Attendance

Present: Ellen Blalock, Emanuel Carter, Karen Convertino, Rick Destito, Nancy Keefe Rhodes, Sofia Paniagua, Joanna Spitzner, and Dan Ward

Absent: Bob Doucette, Corky Goss, Bahar Zaker

Staff: Kate Auwaerter

II. Meeting called to order at 5:33 p.m.
The Commission reviewed the minutes of October 10, 2017. N. Keefe Rhodes made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted, which was seconded by K. Convertino. The motion passed unanimously with two abstentions (E. Blalock and J. Spitzner).

III. Old Business
No Old Business

IV. New Business
SPAC 17-17: *2311 S Salina Street Mural*, Emma Stoll and Arc500.04 Class. Emma Stoll and Ryan Oechinghaus, both architecture students from Syracuse University, presented their class project to install a mural on the south-facing wall of 2311 S. Salina Street. The property is owned by the People's Community Development Corporation. The mural depicts a stylized version of the Erie Canal bisecting the center of the mural. To the left of the canal image is an image of the west side of S. Salina Street with several identifiable buildings from the neighborhood. To the right of the canal is an image of a collection of attenuated buildings not associated with the neighborhood. Running across the center of the mural in large block letters is the word "Brighton". The students stated that their purpose is to present the neighborhood in a positive light that the community would enjoy. The color palette for the mural was taken from the "Sankofa" marketing materials that the neighborhood is using to promote itself.
In discussion, the Commission was positive about the composition of the artwork itself, but was concerned that it was out of context with the neighborhood. It was noted that the Erie Canal had little to do with the neighborhood's development. E. Blalock stated that the artwork should reflect the sensibilities and interests of the neighborhood and be a source of pride. She

mentioned the strong mural program in Philadelphia and how neighborhoods are involved with the creation of their own murals with the result that each mural is a reflection of its surroundings. She questioned whether "Brighton" was how the neighborhood identified itself. The students stated that they had not yet spoken to the neighborhood organizations or individuals about the project, but that they intended to. The Commission asked that they seek community input and come back with a design based on those conversations. The students noted that the timeline was tight due to the end of the semester. K. Auwaerter stated that the next meeting was December 12, which would be the earliest approval date for a revised design.

V. Discussion

Defining a vision for Syracuse's Public Art Program. K. Auwaerter commented that the New Year and arrival of a new administration presents an ideal opportunity to take stock of the Public Art Commission's work from the last several years and to formulate an agenda and priorities for 2018. D. Ward commented that the Public Art Plan, which was approved by Common Council in 2014, provides a framework for the Commission's work as it determines it priorities for the coming year.

In this context, D. Ward invited E. Carter to relay to the Commission some of his expertise and experience of other public art programs across the country. E. Carter referenced in particular Philadelphia's public art program and how it imbues meaning for those who live and visit the city. He suggested that Syracuse needs to identify what it wants public art to do for the community. He continued that Syracuse has many interesting stories that can be told through its public art program. Part of the process will be to identify those stories and their overarching themes as well as to identify the locations for where those stories can be told. One obvious place to start is with the city parks, which are a great, under-celebrated community resource. He also commented that art does not need to be limited to traditional installation pieces, but could be ecological art, for example.

He suggested that he could assign an ESF landscape architecture studio and/or a capstone student to assist the Commission with vision planning. He noted that with a strong guiding vision, the Commission would be in a stronger position to solicit new artwork and be less reactive. However, the earliest he could offer a studio was the fall of 2018.

The Commission was very positive about the offer of assistance from ESF students. Rather than just wait until the fall, the Commission discussed how it could lay the groundwork and move its agenda forward in the meantime. K. Auwaerter will provide a summary of what has been accomplished or is in process from the public plan. The Commission will use this information to develop its priorities for the coming year.

VI. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.