

Approved as submitted



REGULAR MEETING

December 8, 2015

SyraStat Office (Rm 215 City Hall)

5:30 pm

Attendance

Present: Karen Convertino, George Curry, Nancy Keefe Rhodes, Dan Ward, Bahar Zaker
(no quorum)

Absent: Rick Destito, Corky Goss, Kerry Kennedy, London Ladd, Joanna Spitzner, Bob Doucette

Staff: Kate Auwaerter

- I. Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m.
The approval of the minutes was tabled until the next regularly scheduled meeting.
- II. Old Business:
No Old Business
- III. New Business/Discussion
2016 Schedule. The commission members reviewed the 2016 schedule and approved the schedule for publication.

Connective Corridor Public Art update and discussion. Quinton Fletchall presented an update on the Connective Corridor public art project. Each of the selected artists is under contract and is at the following stages of project development: Dewitt Godfrey is developing a proposal for Bank Alley; Blessing Hancock is working on a piece that will be suspended over Onondaga Creek between the Warehouse and the Creekwalk; and Sam Van Aken has selected the Everson Museum on the Harrison Street side as the site for his tree project. BJ Kirvanek is in conversation with the owners of the Hills Building and Erwin Redl is discussing a potential lighting project with the owners of Onondaga Towers.

The Commission members discussed in greater depth the proposal by Walczak and Heiss titled *Storytime*. It is a large sculpture made in the form of a high-backed, flat bench. As described, the artwork "consists of an enclosure made of black powder-coated steel and toughened glass with a white stone bench below." Behind the glass will be a dot matrix of LEDs that will display texts that tell stories "about time". The texts will be compiled from the community and/or based on historical facts about Syracuse. The artists have proposed two potential locations: Lemp Park on Warren Street or the Powelson site in Columbus Circle.

In discussion, N. Keefe-Rhodes stated that she could not support the Lemp Park location for the following reasons: it did not appear to be scaled appropriately for the site; as located on the site, the garage wall provided an unsightly backdrop to the artwork; and finally the artwork appeared too cold and modern for the park. In contrast, the Powelson site, with its stand of trees, would provide a better visual framework and backdrop for the artwork.

K. Auwaerter noted that the Lemp Park site was a high-visibility location that is already a gathering place. She also noted that it might be simpler logistically given the access to power in the park. K. Convertino requested that Q. Fletchall ask the artists to consider the concerns expressed about the Lemp Park site and see if they could address the issue of scale and design. G. Curry noted that the Commission would need to know the dimensions of the piece in the final application.

AIA-CNY public art proposal. K. Auwaerter reported about the AIA (American Institute of Architects) Central New York's winning proposal at the 40 Below "Fresh Ideas" Summit to install "architectural installations throughout Downtown Syracuse". She had met with Anthony Rojas, project director, to discuss the proposal. The AIA-CNY proposes to install permanent, site specific artworks in all 8 downtown "neighborhoods" at a rate of one per year, depending on fundraising. They anticipate each work will cost around \$50,000 (they were awarded \$3,000 in seed funding from 40 Below). K. Auwaerter noted that she will be working closely with the organizers on identifying appropriate locations and to be mindful of the other artworks being planned for installation over the next couple of years.

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