

Draft



**REGULAR MEETING**

February 9, 2016

SyraStat Office (Rm 215 City Hall)

5:30 pm

Attendance

Present: Karen Convertino, George Curry, Rick Destito, Bob Doucette, Corky Goss, Kerry Kennedy, Nancy Keefe Rhodes, Joanna Spitzner, Dan Ward,

Absent: London Ladd, Bahar Zaker

Staff: Kate Auwaerter

I. Meeting called to order at 5:38 p.m.

The Commission reviewed the minutes of January 12, 2016. K. Convertino made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted, which was seconded by J. Spitzner. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Old Business:

Draft application: SPAC 16-03: *Current*, Blessing Hancock. Quinton Fletchall presented an update for the Commission regarding the work by Blessing Hancock to be suspended over Onondaga Creek at the Warehouse. He reported that the artist had made a site visit and met with members of City Engineering. One of the important questions is how to power the lighting for the piece; Q. Fletchall is investigating whether it will be possible to draw power from the Warehouse. G. Curry noted that in the renderings there is no undergrowth shown beneath the sculpture. As there is currently abundant undergrowth -- primarily volunteer plant material -- he asked if the plan was to remove it prior to installation. K. Auwaerter stated that it was her understanding that the City would be clearing the undergrowth in preparation for bridge work at Washington Street. She will check into the plans with Engineering.

III. New Business

*No new applications*

IV. Discussion

Draft application: SPAC 16-04: *Sealte*, Dewitt Godfrey. Dewitt Godfrey presented his application to install a 55'w x 64'h steel sculpture in Bank Alley. The word "Sealte" is old English for salt. It would be located toward the Jefferson Street end of the alley within a bump-out section of the pavement on the east side of the alley. There is currently a bench and trees in the bump-out. The sculpture would be installed on a concrete pad and attached to the wall of the Onondaga Tower Building. The owner of the property has indicated that he is in favor of the installation. The sculpture will consist of 95 to 100 compressed circles of CorTen steel connected by stainless steel bolts. D. Godfrey stated that the circles will be squeezed or molded

into what is called a “voronoi” type structure, which eliminates voids and reduces the space in which the structure can move, adding to its stability. The sculpture will not be flat against the wall of the building, but rather arc out approximately 11’ from the wall. D. Godfrey explained that CorTten steel takes approximately a year to oxidize at which point it will take on a dark bronze color as well as its weather resistant properties. He noted that it was important that the steel be able to dry and explained that the circles are actually conical and will not collect water.

The Commission was supportive of the application. K. Convertino asked about signage to attract attention to the piece. K. Auwaerter noted that the site is easily visible from Jefferson Street. D. Godfrey noted that the uplighting of the piece at night will help “advertise” its presence. The Commission also discussed how the work might be designed to deter climbing. D. Godfrey noted that although strong, his pieces are designed in such a way that they move making them seem unstable, which tends to deter climbing. It was noted that there would be no way to stop people from going behind the sculpture, but the open nature of the piece reduces the perception of a wall or hiding place. With the Commission’s general support, the next steps are for the artist to work with his engineers on wind and snow loading, safety, and lighting. He will also be constructing a scale model.

SU Public Art Studio: Temporary installations Downtown (introduction). Tom Hall (SU faculty) provided an introduction for the five graduate students who are working on installations downtown. The project is called *Outside In/Inside Out*. Their first assignment is to research the community at the OHA and design installations that will be installed at the museum. The second phase is to install related artwork outside for temporary installations. Each of the five students presented initial basic concepts to the Commission. All of the students are seeking to install work near or on Columbus Circle or along Montgomery Street. The preliminary concepts ranged from ceramic to steel sculptures as well as text based art on plaques. The Commission provided their initial impressions of the direction of the work. B. Doucette said that he was opposed to any artwork being placed on Columbus Circle. K. Auwaerter noted that the Commission had identified this as designed landscape previously that has special sensitivity. Two of the commissioners volunteered to attend the class and work with the students on their concepts further. It was generally agreed by the Commission members that it was very helpful to have the artists come this early in their design process.

Airport Art Program: K. Auwaerter reported that the airport art committee, which includes Kerry Kennedy, Karen Convertino, Nancy Keefe Rhodes, are now working with the airport as advisors to the public art program and have their first meeting on 2/11.

V. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.