

Approved as submitted



REGULAR MEETING

May 14, 2013
SyraStat Office (Rm 215 City Hall)
5:30 pm

Attendance

Present: Chris Capella-Peters, Karen Convertino, Rick Destito, Bob Doucette, Corky Goss, Nancy Keefe Rhodes, Joanna Spitzner, Bahar Zaker

Absent: George Curry, London Ladd, Dan Ward

Staff: Kate Auwaerter

I. Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m.

The Commission reviewed the minutes from the March 12, 2013 meeting. B. Doucette moved to approve the minutes and N. Keefe Rhodes seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously as submitted.

II. Old Business

No Old Business

III. New Business

SPAC-13-03: *Reducing Teen Violence*. Taino Palermo provided the project background to the Commission. He explained that the mural was the result of the work of 30 youth participants of the Ford Driving Dream and Spanish Action League Teen Program under the supervision of artists Juan Cruz and Oscar Garces. The mural, to be located at 400 Seymour Street, is of white dove holding an olive branch. Three lines of text will also be included in the mural; T. Palermo explained that the text will be an excerpt from the teen poetry series. The content of the text is yet to be determined. Before T. Palermo arrived, the Commission had discussed the content of the mural including the series of sponsor logos that appeared at the base of the mural. T. Palermo clarified that the mural would not include the sponsors' names. The Commission agreed that it was a simple and elegant design. B. Doucette made a motion to approve the application with the condition that the Public Art Coordinator would review the text prior to the installation of the mural. R. Destito seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

IV. Discussion

Mural restorations: Columbus Circle and S. Clinton Streets. Laurie Reed (Downtown Committee) and Kelly Curry (artist) made a presentation regarding two mural restoration proposals: the *Art Masters* by the Syracuse Art Squad (Andy Matlow) on the railroad wingwall on S. Clinton Street near Adams Street; and the untitled mural on the Chancery Building in Columbus Circle also by the Art Squad. L. Reed and K. Curry explained that the scope of work for the *Art Masters* was cleaning, repairing and repainting the mural only. The Commission agreed that this work did not require a Resolution.

In regard to the Chancery Building mural, L. Reed showed images of the original mural juxtaposed with the mural as it is today. She explained that the mural was commissioned in 1980 by the Downtown Committee of Syracuse. Since that time it has been refurbished twice by artist Tom Parker. During these refurbishments, areas of the mural were redrawn, altering color, perspective and content. In addition, in 2004, Parker added new work to the back portion of the building. She noted that it was their strong desire to see the mural restored to its original composition.

K. Curry explained to the Commission how she intended to prepare the wall. After discussion, the Commission's recommendations were to gently power wash the walls (no needle-nose nozzles; psi between 250-500) and re-point where necessary; limit the use of impermeable sealers (DryLok) to the parapet wall section only. C. Capella-Peters recommended that only breathable, water-repellant sealers be used for the wall below the parapet, i.e. the portions of the wall that enclose habitable (heated) spaces. Heat from these spaces generates moisture that will get trapped behind an impermeable sealant, causing the face of the brick to spall.

The Commission also strongly recommended that the owners of the property address the open drain/gutter at the base of the building, possibly by attaching a leader that will direct the water away from the building. Without this remediation, the brick would continue to deteriorate below the drain and along the base of the wall.

Because the proposed mural restoration would result in a change in appearance of the mural, it requires a Public Art application. L. Reed and K. Curry stated they would prepare an application to present at the next meeting.

Public Art Artist Pool and Airport Initiative update. K. Auwaerter reported that she had received 30 responses to the request for qualifications for artists interested in being included in the new Public Artist Pool. The Airport Art subcommittee would meet soon to go through the applications and to develop the next steps with the airport. K. Auwaerter also reported that the Commissioner of Aviation was making available wall cases (previously reserved for advertising) to install artwork or small installations from area cultural organizations.

Common Center/Perseverance Park initiative update. K. Auwaerter reported that a committee had met several times to formulate the plans for the redesign of Common Center/Perseverance Park, starting with an outreach strategy in preparation for the design competition. The Commission discussed the design competition, noting that public art should be integral to the new design.

V. Adjournment The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.