

Approved as submitted



REGULAR MEETING

September 13, 2016

SyraStat Office (Rm 215 City Hall)

5:30 pm

Attendance

Present: Karen Convertino, George Curry, Rick Destito, Bob Doucette, Kerry Kennedy, Dan Ward, Bahar Zaker

Absent: Corky Goss, Nancy Keefe Rhodes, Joanna Spitzner

Staff: Kate Auwaerter

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

The Commission reviewed the minutes of July 27, 2016. B. Doucette made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted, which was seconded by G. Curry. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Old Business

SPAC 14-07 *Let Us Continue*, Quinton Fletchall. Q. Fletchall was present at the meeting. He confirmed for the Commission that he had revised the proposed text for the final panel of his mural as recommended by the Commission at its July 27, 2016 meeting. He reported that the mural panel was on order and would be installed later this fall.

SPAC 16-09 *Sky's the Limit*, Mike Myers. K. Auwaerter reminded the Commission members that at the July 27, 2016 meeting, the Commission had come to a consensus that the design of the proposed mural on the AXA garage was acceptable. However, the Commission tabled the application pending a decision regarding the ownership of the AXA garage. K. Auwaerter reported that Corporation Counsel had determined that the garage is owned by the City. G. Curry made a motion to approve the application as submitted, which was seconded by K. Convertino. The motion passed on majority vote with B. Doucette abstaining.

SPAC 16-04 *Seattle*, Dewitt Godfrey. Q. Fletchall reported that D. Godfrey had solicited preliminary bids for the fabrication of the steel sculpture and that they had come in higher than anticipated. He is now determining how much of the design and fabrication he could do on his own in order to bring down the cost of the piece. Q. Fletchall also noted the outstanding issue of the partially filled vault at the site location.

III. New Business

SPAC 16-12: *The Mighty Salt City Sign Project*, Cayetano Valenzuela. C. Valenzuela presented the application for a mural at 420 E Genesee Street. He discussed with the Commission the resurgence of sign painting as an art form and the aesthetic of large-scale text based murals. He noted that he had researched historic signs in Syracuse at the Onondaga Historical Association and had traveled around the city viewing historic signs. He explained that he had

selected a 1930s-40s color palette and lettering style for the mural. The mural's message is intended to promote Syracuse; K. Auwaerter reminded the Commission that it had recommended this theme to the Connective Corridor for the sign painter murals. K. Convertino made a motion to approve the application as submitted, which was seconded by B. Zaker. The motion passed on a majority vote with B. Doucette abstaining.

IV. Discussion

Sign painters: The Commission discussed the Connective Corridor's call for sign painters. The Commission noted that no Commission member or City staff member was included in the sign painter RFQ process or judging. Q. Fletchall stated that the call was the brainchild of the Connective Corridor's previous administration. Commission members discussed the line that separates sign painting from signage and the concern that some of the murals had come close to advertising. K. Convertino also noted that the signs, which all share a similar aesthetic, are grouped downtown. She noted that the quality of the artwork is good, but regretted that they could not be spread throughout the community. Q. Fletchall stated that the grant for the sign painters required that the work be located on the Connective Corridor. K. Convertino again reiterated the need for a City public art fund.

Functional artwork. G. Curry brought to the Commission's attention the proliferation of "artful" bike racks, chairs, musical instruments, exercise equipment and other design elements that are being introduced into the public right-of-way and on public property. He questioned whether these elements should be reviewed by the Commission as part of the design aesthetic of Downtown. He asked who in the City reviews the installations. K. Auwaerter responded that for the most part the Parks Department and/or the Department of Public Works are responsible for the review and installation. The Commission members agreed that the proliferation of these design features is having a visual impact on Downtown's physical environment. The Commission agreed to take up this matter at a later date.

Connective Corridor public artwork update. Q. Fletchall provided a brief update on the progress of the Connective Corridor artwork:

Blessing Hancock (*Current*): Syracuse University engineering still must comment on the drawings. There is also a question of whether or not Syracuse University will own the piece.

Walczak & Heiss (*Story Time*): The artists are waiting for their engineers to complete the drawings. The first batch of "minutes" is complete. K. Auwaerter reminded Q. Fletchall that she will need to review the text prior to the project going live.

BJ Krivanek: The artist is seeking a location for his project. Most recently he has been in touch with the YMCA on Montgomery Street -- the Downtown Writers Center at the YMCA might be interested in working with the artist on a project.

Best Dressed mural on the Warehouse: K. Auwaerter reported that she had provided Commission comment to the artists after the Commission denied their application. At this point, the artwork will be installed in the spring.

Steve Powers: Q. Fletchall reported that the Connective Corridor is contemplating commissioning a new mural by Powers, potentially on the Fayette Street garage. The artist will in Syracuse in October to repair the West Street bridge murals which are rusting in places.

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