



May 8, 2018
Room 215 City Hall
5:30 p.m.

I. Attendance

Present: Ellen Blalock, Emanuel Carter, Sofia Paniagua, Nancy Keefe Rhodes, Joanna Spitzner, Dan Ward, Bahar Zaker

Absent: Karen Convertino, Rick Destito, Bob Doucette, Corky Goss

Staff: Kate Auwaerter

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

The Commission reviewed the minutes of March 13, 2018. E. Carter made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted, which was seconded by E. Blalock. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Old Business

New Urban Space project. The Commission members requested an update on the New Urban Space/Perseverance Park project. N. Keefe Rhodes noted that the Commission was involved in the early discussions regarding the space and participated in the public participatory stages of the project. K. Auwaerter was unable to provide details to the Commission, but noted that the initial cost estimates would necessitate changes in the project scope. The Commission resolved that it should be kept informed and involved in decision-making regarding the proposed park. The Commission also expressed its desire to meet with the Mayor to discuss the new administration's views and priorities in regard to the City's public art program.

IV. New Business

SPAC 17-12 (Modification) *Paint the Town*, Brendan Rose. K. Auwaerter reported that the project organizers had requested a change in location for the mural. It was originally proposed for the intersection of Broad and Westcott streets, close to Ed Smith School. With the temporary relocation of Ed Smith to Levy School, the organizers have requested that the mural be painted either at the intersection of Fellows Ave and Harvard Place or in the mid-block of the 400 block of Harvard Place. K. Auwaerter noted that DPW remains hesitant to allow murals within intersections for fear of distracting drivers, even though communities such as Rochester have successful intersection art programs. The Commission was supportive of the relocation, but preferred the intersection over the mid-block location. S. Paniagua recommended that the Commission assist the applicants by encouraging DPW to reconsider its position. This proposed intersection mural project could be used as a pilot for the rest of the city. She noted that during the school year, crossing guards are posted at the intersection, which would add to the overall safety and may allay some of DPW's concerns. K. Auwaerter commented that there was time to work with DPW and the neighborhood prior to school reopening. She had recommended to the

organizers that the artwork be installed as part of the new/returning student activities prior to the start of school.

SPAC 11-04: *Honoring Onondaga Creek*, Peter Michel (signage). K. Auwaerter reported that committee of the Valley TNT is preparing signage for the artwork, which was part of the original proposal. The Commission reviewed the text for the sign and made some editorial/grammatical revisions, which K. Auwaerter stated she would pass along to the project committee.

V. Discussion

Survey of Public Art research findings: ESF Landscape Architecture Graduate Assistant. E. Carter introduced his graduate assistant, Jordan Pulling. J. Pulling presented her research report on public art programs and airport art programs from across the country. E. Carter recommended that the Commission use the materials to investigate how other communities' public art programs operate in order to determine how the Syracuse program could be reshaped and redirected. The goal is to develop a clear vision for the program, which will help the Commission be more effective and consequential. Specifically, he suggested that the Commission should use story telling as a framework for the program: how can public art uncover and tell the unique stories of Syracuse, and what stories should be told, by whom and where. He noted that with a clear agenda and plan, the Commission could consider soliciting donors for commissioned works of art. The Commission was very interested and determined that it would be most effective to organize a retreat to begin this conversation. K. Auwaerter stated she would poll the commission members for available dates over the summer.

VI. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.