

Approved as submitted



May 14, 2019
Room 215 City Hall
5:30 p.m.

I. Attendance

Present: Ellen Blalock, Lauren Boldon, Elizabeth Bryson, Takarra Smith, Dan Ward, and Tina Zagya.

Absent: Emanuel Carter, Corky Goss, Jimmy Monto, Nancy Keefe Rhodes

Staff: Kate Auwaerter

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

D. Ward welcomed Liz Bryson to the commission.

The Commission reviewed the minutes of March 12, 2019. T. Smith made a motion to accept the minutes as submitted, which was seconded by T. Zagya. The motion passed with one abstention (E. Bryson).

III. Old Business

Syracuse Writers Project. Joe Sisko (LOCUS) provided an update on the *Syracuse Writers* project that will celebrate the literary legacy of the community through an installation featuring excerpts of the writings of authors from Syracuse, or those influenced by their time in Syracuse. He reported that, with the help of N. Keefe Rhodes and L. Bryson, he had completed a survey of the local writing and literary community. The survey asked respondents to recommend authors for the installation. He noted that along with names, respondents had provided several other more general recommendations, including that the piece should be installed in a highly visible location; it should be legible from a distance, but also placed so that people can view it up close; and finally that the authors must have an established relationship to Syracuse.

Taking the site recommendations into account and with the constraint that the installation must be located on City-owned property along the Connective Corridor route, J. Sisko stated that the preferred location was the wire-mesh fence along E. Genesee Street immediately south of Forman Park and just west of Syracuse Stage. He noted that a new sidewalk runs the length of the fence and that this area will be increasingly well-traveled, especially with the outcome of the I-81 project. His proposal is to remove sections of the mesh and replace it with a series of aluminum panels. Each panel will be approximately 2'x10' and will feature the texts of up to three individual authors per panel. The panels will have a brushed aluminum finish with incised lettering. Colored backing will help make the texts legible.

J. Sisko noted that local historian Sam Gruber is working on selecting texts for the panels. L. Boldon suggested that in selecting texts that they look for themes or ways to link the texts beyond just the common link to Syracuse. She also recommended that if possible each author should have his/her own backing color so that they can be easily distinguished.

J. Sisko noted that only about 60 feet of the fence would be replaced with the new metal panels. They are seeking to keep the cost of each panel low so that the project could be added to in the future.

IV. New Business
No new business

V. Discussion

Public art and placemaking booklet (SUNY ESF Landscape Architecture 327). K. Auwaerter provided a brief summary of the booklet that was developed by Emanuel Carter's landscape architecture class regarding public art and placemaking in Syracuse. K. Auwaerter noted that the descriptions and examples of the different types of public art will be a helpful tool for the Commission in its public outreach efforts.

2019 Action Plan: discussion and updates. K. Auwaerter recommended that the Commission consider developing a city-wide mural program based on the theme of neighborhood stories/story telling. She noted that the benefits of a mural program are that it would be easy to engage the public in the program, every neighborhood will have multiple sites for murals (and none have to be on public property), and it is cost effective. Ultimately, a mural program would be a means of building a city-wide constituency for public art.

In discussion, T. Zagyva noted that in order to move the Commission's initiatives forward (including those in the master plan), that it needs to organize into subcommittees that can work on specific issues such as fundraising, communications, outreach and education, etc. T. Smith noted that she was particularly interested in organizing a fundraising event that would promote public art in the city and raise funds for the public art program. D. Ward noted that the Commission would need to establish an outside account (possibly at one of the area foundations) into which people could donate funding specifically for public art. T. Zagyva said that she would create an outline of committees that the Commission could discuss at the next meeting. T. Smith said that she would work on the outline of a fundraising event. K. Auwaerter said that she would organize a meeting with the Community Foundation to discuss the possibility of setting up an account.

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