



**City of Fort Worth
Art Commission
REGULAR MEETING**

**Monday, January 11, 2021, 5:00 p.m. CDT
Webex Videoconference**

COMMISSION MEMBERS

PRESENT:

Commissioner Maggie Adler
Commissioner Carol Hendrix
Commissioner Raul Pena

Commissioner James Talambas (vice chair)
Commissioner Leslie Thompson
Commissioner Estrus Tucker (chair)

ABSENT:

Commissioner Bill Campbell
Commissioner Sheila Hill

MINUTES

- I. Roll Call – Anne Allen, Public Art Project Manager
Roll Call confirmed a quorum of five (5) Art Commissioners in attendance.

- II. Call to Order – Chairman Tucker called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m.
 - a. Reading of COVID-19 Statement – Anne Allen
Allen read the statement regarding City’s use of teleconference format due to public safety concerns due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- III. Approval of Minutes – Chairman Tucker
 - a. Regular Meeting of December 14, 2020
 - b. **A motion was made by Commissioner Pena and seconded by Commissioner Hendrix to approve the Art Commission Minutes of December 14, 2021. The motion passed (5-0-0).**

- IV. Report of Chair – Chairman Tucker
 - a. South Patrol Division Update
Last month, the Art Commission voted against approving Gordon Huether’s Preliminary Design for the South Patrol Division. On December 23, 2020, the City of Fort Worth, in accordance with the contract, formally requested that Huether submit a Revised Preliminary Design that addresses the feedback he received. Huether has agreed. Tucker added that he has spoken with Police Chief Kraus, Council Member Jordan, and Assistant City Manager Fernando Costa, to make sure everyone is on the same page.

 - b. Chairman’s Comments on Current Agenda Items
Tucker stated he is pleased to have members of Project Core Teams and other stakeholders in attendance. He asks that these individuals limit their comments to the



time designated on the agenda. Once the meeting moves on to general Citizens' Presentations and Art Commission discussion, further comments will no longer be entertained. If anyone has technical difficulties with being heard or with the "raise your hand" feature, please use the "chat" feature to communicate with Michael Asbill who can assist you or email the appropriate Project Manager.

V. Citizens' Presentations – General - None

VI. Action Items

- a. Approve Final Design by Artist Julie Richey for the North Animal Control Public Art Project, 301 Hillshire Drive, 76052 (Council District 7)

i. Report of Staff – Alida Labbe

The artist has collaborated with the architects and the Animal Control Services Team to create the final artwork design which consists of multiple pieces.

The driveway entry to the facility will have three (3) gabions made from metal and rock. Atop each of the gabions is a mosaic animal: a chihuahua named "Pepita"; a mixed-terrier dog named "Chip"; and a cat named "Luna". These mosaic animals will be flat with mosaic tile that is flush with steel band framing.

In front of the Veterinary Clinic are five (5) flat mosaic dogs that will be the visible from front and back. The pieces are positioned to look like the dogs are "giving chase" along the retaining wall which is positioned above the pedestrian walkway.

In front of the Adoption Center is a bench with a three-dimensional blue dog named "Murphy". This piece will be constructed of a steel armature with a fiberglass and concrete shell, clad with mosaic tile. Richey envisioned this as a place for visitors to rest and take a "selfie" with their new pet.

The interior lobby of the Adoption Center will have three (3) mosaic cats "sleeping" and "lounging", positioned on the wall and beams. The cats will be two-sided where possible and are made of Mexican Smalti tile. The tile will be applied to cement board and have a mortared edge. In addition, a large original hand-painted mural titled, "Raining Cats and Disco Dogs", by Texas artist John Wehrle, will be installed.

Outside of the rear exit of the Adoption Center will be "Terra", a three-dimensional, five-foot tall mosaic cat, anchored to the ramp railing, providing another "selfie" opportunity.

ii. Project Core Team Comments

Design Team Member Michelle Elbers, of PGAL, stated that the artist has been comprehensive in her study of the site. She feels the art design will enhance the site design. Elbers also stated that the North Animal Control Center Veterinarian, Dr. Tom Morton, has stated that he loves the design and the interactive pieces.

iii. Citizens' Presentations - None



iv. Art Commission Discussion

Art Commissioners expressed positive comments about the colorful and detailed design and the artist's thoughtful placement of the elements. It was also noted that the mural will bring a deeper sense of community and the value of life.

A motion was made by Commissioner Thompson and seconded by Commissioner Talambas to approve the Final Design by Artist Julie Richey for the North Animal Control Public Art Project, 301 Hillshire Drive, 76052 (Council District 7). The motion passed (5-0-0).

b. Approve Final Design by Artist Elizabeth Akamatsu for the Diamond Hill Community Center Public Art Project, Weber Street at 36th Street, 76106 (Council District 2)

i. Report of Staff – Alida Labbe

Labbe recapped the Preliminary Design and reminded the Commission that Akamatsu attended meetings with community members to learn the goals and objectives of the new community center, such as the fact that it is at the heart of this diverse neighborhood and located between three schools.

For the community center the artist will create a sculpture of intersecting planes of welded, water-cut stainless steel. The concept of this sculpture comes from the idea of planting a seed, setting root, and growing a bountiful life.

The only substantial update to this design from preliminary design is that the diamond shaped flowers will be welded rather than bolted to the stems.

The sculpture will serve as a landmark and will measure approximately 16 feet tall, 8 feet wide, and 8 feet deep. The sharp edges will be made smooth and the metal planes will have a brushed surface. The sculpture will reflect the colors of the building and the environment and sit upon an 18-inch high, diamond-shaped concrete platform, which will provide seating for visitors.

Labbe explained the art rendering shows crushed granite and wild grass, which are proposed by the artist, but is not in the public art budget. The design team and architect may choose to add these elements; however, as of now the sculpture will have grass surrounding it.

ii. Project Core Team Comments

- Jennifer Sarduy stated that Elizabeth did a great job of listening to community feedback and thinks the symbolism is beautiful. She looks forward to opportunities for the Diamond Hill youth to use this art as an inspiration.
- Council Member Flores thanked the artist for taking the time to truly listen to input from neighbors and stakeholders. He likes the symbolism, representation, and execution of the artwork. He also acknowledged the Core Team Members that are part of this project.
- Raul Meza stated he was happy to have been a part of this process and thinks the artwork design is awesome. He appreciates the story behind the piece and believes it represents the diverse community and



emphasizes the character of Diamond Hill. Meza added that he likes that you can sit under it.

- iii. Citizens' Presentations - None
- iv. Art Commission Discussion
Commissioners expressed appreciation of the design and the symbolism behind it, noting how blending art and nature can engage the community.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pena and seconded by Commissioner Hendrix to approve the Final Design by Artist Elizabeth Akamatsu for the Diamond Hill Community Center Public Art Project, Weber Street at 36th Street, 76106 (Council District 2). The motion passed (6-0-0). [NOTE: Commissioner Adler join the meeting prior to the presentation of this action item.]

VII. Staff Report and Announcements – Martha Peters

- a. Upcoming City Council Actions:
 - i. January 12, 2021
 - 1. Authorize Artwork Commission Contract with Jill Bedgood for Chisholm Trail Park Phase 2 (Council District 6)
 - 2. Authorize Artwork Commission Contract with Laura Walters for Rockwood Clubhouse (Council District 2)
- b. Project Reports
 - i. Six Points Urban Village/ Race Street – Alida Labbe
New replacement lighting is installed and functioning; however, there are some programming adjustments yet to be made.
 - ii. Reby Cary Youth Library – Alida Labbe
On January 22, 2021, the artist's team will arrive to install the work.
 - iii. GAP Mural Artist-in-Residence Update – Jenny Conn (*given by Martha Peters*)
The Graffiti Abatement Program (GAP) staff of the Park and Recreation Department would like to add a Community Representative and a member of the Police Departments Crime Control Prevention District (CCPD) to the Artist Selection Panel. Commissioners voiced no objection to that request.
- c. Community Engagement Update – Michael Asbill
 - i. Refik Anadol's *Pioneer Tower Dreams* "Call for Memories" Final Deadline: January 31, 2021 (<https://pioneertowerdreams.org>)

The online Texas art magazine, *Glasstire*, gave the Pioneer Tower event top raking in their *Spring Preview 2021*.

Peters stated that due to the spike in COVID-19 cases staff is rescheduling the event for later this year, with guidance from the Texas Commission for the Arts (who has provided grant funding), and Will Rodgers Memorial Center staff. The new date will be announced soon.



- d. Announcements of Staff
Peters announced that Michelle Richardson will return from maternity leave to begin working part-time in mid-January.

VIII. Announcements of Commissioners - None

IX. Future Agenda Items - None

- X. Next Meeting - Chairman Lee
 - a. Monday, February 8, 2021, 5:00 p.m. via Webex (see agenda for details)

XI. Adjournment – Chairman Tucker adjourned the meeting at 6:05 p.m.