City of Colorado Springs

11-19-2019

Public Art Commission Minutes

1. Meeting called to order at 4:00 pm
   1. *In Attendance*  
      Leann Fraka, Citizen-at-Large  
      Marcy Fletchall  
      Richard Sebastian-Coleman  
      Sandy Friedman  
      Hillary Dodge, Citizen-at-Large  
      Bernard Byers, Citizen-at-Large (by phone)  
      Joseph MacDonald  
      Chrystie Hopkins  
      David Siegel, Parks and Recreation Representative  
      Matt Mayberry, Pioneers Museum Cultural Service Manager  
      David Geislinger, City Councilman  
      Stan VanderWerf, County Commissioner

Malia Pereira, Youth Ambassador

1. Richard Sebastian-Coleman elected Secretary of the Commission
2. Matt Mayberry gave summary of Asphalt Art Initiative and asked the Commission for letter in support of it
   1. City pursuing grant for $25,000 from Bloomberg Foundation for paved street art at two locations. Council will receive result of application in January, 2020
   2. Locations
      1. Pikes Peak Ave & Tejon Street
      2. In-front of Ivywild School
   3. Will not impact TABOR (question from Councilman Geislinger)
   4. Not considered permanent art
   5. Matt asked Commission for letter of support for the initiative
      1. Hillary Doge motioned that the Commission write and sign such a letter for public record
      2. Richard Sebastian-Coleman seconded
      3. Unanimous approval by those in attendance
3. Kendall Peterson, Rachel Cain, and Brian Corrigan, third party contractors hired by the City to prepare the Public Art Master Plan, presented key points of the Plan and then opened the floor to discussion
   1. Master Plan made up of seven (7) general goals ranging from “low hanging fruit” to “aspirational”. Commission members given booklets with summary of each goal. Exact names and order subject to change.
   2. Full proposal will be made to City Council at the end of December
      1. Will include plans for the sesquicentennial celebration which itself is likely to include a large permanent installation on 30th Street in front of Garden of the Gods. PAC may have input on it.
      2. Clarified that goal of “Well Balanced” means that public art is not just displayed downtown but is distributed around the city where communities want it.
      3. Proposal does include the city hiring a full time employee to receive public questions about public art and its availability and act as internal liaison between city departments and commissions to find opportunities for display and financial and institutional support for public art.
      4. Mentioned that the city should pursue a sustainable funding source for public art long-term.
      5. Clarified that Public Art means art pieces owned by the city of Colorado Springs after question from Commissioner VanderWerf
      6. Asked for input and suggestions to the Vision and Mission statement in the meeting or by e-mail to Matt ([matt.mayberry@coloradosprings.gov](mailto:matt.mayberry@coloradosprings.gov))
   3. Discussion then followed and mostly surrounded scope of the Plan
      1. David Siegel stated his great support and excitement for the plan after initial skepticism having attended a more in-depth presentation on it earlier in the day.
      2. County Commissioner VanderWerf stated that he believes the current definition of Public Art (that it is art owned by the city) inherently excludes art owned by the county and publicly displayed art owned by private entities from the Plan. The Commissioner suggested revising the definition of Public Art to include these and that the Plan highlights the economic and business benefit of having and supporting public art long term.
         1. Marcy Fletchall agreed that the plan should describe a relationship with the county’s art collection.
         2. Councilman Guislinger agreed that the Plan should integrate programs for county and privately owned pieces but that those programs would be different from how the city managed the pieces it owned.
         3. Rachel Cain noted that Goal 5 includes explicitly working with other public and private entities to create more spaces for art within the city.
         4. Matt Mayberry noted a Pikes Peak regional plan is in the works.
         5. Kendall Peterson noted the following:
            1. That the plan had been commissioned Colorado Springs City council and thus it could not set up programs outside its jurisdiction.
            2. That the feedback received from private developers is that they would like it to be easier to create spaces for Public Art but that they do not want to be directed as to what that art is or how it should be displayed.
      3. Councilman Geislinger opened discussion on the future of the Commission itself in light of the Plan, noting that:
         1. There is political will on City Council for the Public Art Commission to take on a greater role than just reviewing proposed additions to the city’s collection of art.
         2. That he sees potential for that expanded role to include curation of city cultural heritage beyond just public art, such as the recent archeological finds at Corral Bluffs, just east of the Colorado Springs
         3. That Commission members should feel empowered to propose ideas as to what that expanded role should be.
4. Meeting adjourned at 5:15