

# MINUTES

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## PUBLIC ART COMMISSION

AUGUST 3, 2021

2:00 P.M.

VIRTUAL MEETING

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xaivJxqvqE>

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jennifer Finkel, Jason Thiel, Cliff Dossel, David Finn, Endia Beal, Elizabeth Repetti, Betsy Towns (late), Owens Daniels (late)  
MEMBERS ABSENT: Jane Doub, Dara Silver  
STAFF PRESENT: Kelly Bennett  
PRESIDING: David Finn

### I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:02 p.m.

### II. APPROVAL OF SUMMARY MINUTES

➤ July 6, 2021

MOTION Endia Beal moved to approve the July 6 meeting minutes.

SECOND Jason Thiel

VOTE Unanimous

### III. SALEM PARKWAY BRIDGE ART

WSDOT Deputy Director Jeff Fansler presented options for artwork locations for the Salem Parkway project. He and Kelly Bennett recommended locations on the Church Street bridge, Cherry and Marshall Street interchange, and the Peters Creek Parkway northeast and southwest interchange sections of the Peters Creek Parkway bridge. David Finn opened the conversation to Commission members and Creative Corridors members for discussion.

- Milton Rhodes, representing Creative Corridors asked about shifting funds for the project to the Peter Oliver project around the Strollway Bridge area. Jeff Fansler said he could discuss the question Rhodes after the PAC meeting.
- Jason Thiel said he supported locating the sculptures in the recommended areas.
- Betsy Towns said that she would like the artwork to make statements about the challenges our community faces.
- Jennifer Finkel said she was concerned that people might try to explore the sculptures on foot and there could be safety issues with these sculpture locations. Jeff Fansler responded that there would be fencing to discourage people from walking to the sculpture areas.
- Cliff Dossel said he preferred quality over quantity of sculptures and supported shifting resources for the Cherry/Marshall sculptures to the Peters Creek Parkway location.
- Betsy Towns said that these issues might be resolved by the artist proposals if they are given the option of multiple sculpture locations.
- Endia Beal said that artists should have structure in the RFP in regard to specific budgets and heights for each location.
- David Finn said that he worries that the artwork will not be at the scale needed given the constraints of the project. He asked why there was a rush to approve the

locations. Jeff Fansler responded that WSDOT needed to approve the locations so they can work with their contractor (Stimmel) to create bases for the artwork and install landscaping. He emphasized that bases would not be constructed before artists submitted proposals. Kelly Bennett said that by choosing sites for artwork sooner, artists would have more flexibility in their designs as NCDOT and the Mayor's Design Review Committee still need to give their input on the project before an RFP can be issued.

- Greg Errett, representing Creative Corridors, suggested adding artwork in the form of a mural or a relief sculpture southwest of Peters Creek Parkway. He discussed how a sculpture in the southwest corner could orient to pedestrians on the planned multiuse path.
- Kelly Bennett suggested that the Commission also consider a pedestrian scaled sculpture at the Marshall Street entrance of the multiuse path.

**MOTION** David Finn moved to recommend sculpture locations at four locations: Church Street bridge, Cherry and Marshall Street interchanges, and the Peters Creek Parkway northeast interchange section, with two pedestrian-scale additional alternate sculptures at the Peters Creek Parkway southwest interchange section and the Marshall Street entrance to the multiuse path.

**SECOND** Jason Thiel

**VOTE** Unanimous (Betsy Towns and Owens Daniels had left the meeting before the vote. A quorum was still present.)

#### **IV. PROJECT REPORTS**

- Memory Wall of Peace and Love
  - Kelly Bennett reported that the Memory Wall was unveiled at a ceremony Monday, August 2.
- Benton Convention Center Update
  - Kelly Bennett reported that a call to artists has been issued for this project.
- Artistic Bus Shelters
  - Kelly Bennett reported that the bus shelters committee would be meeting this month and he expected a proposal to the Commission for the project in September or October.
- Downtown Sculpture
  - Kelly Bennett reported that the committee was close to finalizing the sculpture design so fabrication could begin.
- Covid Memorial
  - Kelly Bennett reported that the committee would be applying for County ARPA funds for the Covid Memorial project.

#### **V. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

There were no public comments.

#### **VI. ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

*Next Full Commission Meeting (Virtual):  
September 7, 2021 2:00 p.m.*