

MINUTES

February 21, 2025 at 12:30 p.m.

Public Art Advisory Commission

Studio, Muscatine Art Center, 1314 Mulberry Avenue

Present: Brad Roeth, Thalia Sutton (by phone), Krista Regennitter, Jim Elias, Melanie Alexander

Absent: Paul Minicucci and Rich Klimes

Guest(s): None

Melanie Alexander, City staff liaison to the Public Art Advisory Commission, called the meeting to order at 12:35 p.m.

Minutes from the October 30, 2024 meeting were reviewed. Brad Roeth moved to approve the minutes, Jim Elias seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alexander provided an update on the Muscatine Cultural Alliance and its plans to continue with collaborative projects including the fundraiser, awards recognition for people active with one or more of the alliance member organizations, and other initiatives around marketing, communications, and programs. Both Jim Elias and Melanie Alexander participate in the meetings which are to take place every other month.

Alexander shared that a group of Leadership Muscatine students would like to work on the public art and mural inventory. The full scope of their project has not yet been defined but could include creation of a printed guide or a digital guide and/or activities connected to public art and murals. Elias volunteered to serve as a contact to the group, helping them connect to artists and others who may be knowledgeable about specific pieces. Alexander is also pulling together information and making contact with building owners and others to obtain some details.

The group discussed the sculpture lending program through Quad City Arts and reviewed two locations for installing temporary or permanent sculptures. After discussion regarding logistics, costs, and budget constraints, it was proposed that a Call for Entries process be run to find a Muscatine County artist to put on exhibit one sculpture in front of Francesca Vitale's on Second Street. The concrete pad in the center of the rectangle of pavers is intended to accommodate a sculpture. For 2025, the plan is to focus on this one location with the intent that the selected work would be on view for approximately one year. The contract with the selected artist would also include a clause about the option to purchase for semi-permanent installation. Alexander will discuss with the City Administrator and report back to the advisory commission.

The City of Muscatine is currently obtaining public feedback as part of the development of the new Comprehensive Plan, and there are opportunities to share ideas regarding public art and other community improvements.

The location for installing the MPW bike sculptures has not been settled. As the original proposed location was found to be problematic, suggestions had been offered during the October 30, 2024 meeting. The advisory commission had not heard if there was support for locating the sculptures on the riverfront across from Ash Street in the grass between the railroad tracks and the bike path. Further details regarding installation of lights for Zenith are also unknown at this time.

Two vacancies are expected on the Public Art Advisory Commission. Roeth and Elias will complete two terms of three years each at the end of June 2025. Members were asked to give consideration to potential candidates who reside within the city limits.

Meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

DRAFT