Visual Arts Commission Minutes
Thursday, November 8, 2018 | 3:30 – 5:00 pm
Collins Conference Room (Lower Level)
101 1st Street SE, Cedar Rapids IA

Commissioners Present: Bill Stamats - Chair
Lynn Ocken - left 4:48 p.m.
Anne Johnson
Karla Scriven – left 4:48 p.m.
David Van Allen
Alexis Dagit – left 4:43 p.m.
Kayt Conrad
Jonathan Berger
Ashley Glassberg

Community Development Staff Present: Bill Micheel – left 4:35 p.m.
Eric Pate
Jillane Shultz – left 5:00 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes
Commissioner Stamats motioned to approve the minutes for August 9, 2018, September 13, 2018, and October 11, 2018. Commissioner Van Allen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Public Input
There was no public input.

3. Discussion & Possible Action Items
   a. College District Public Art Opportunities
      Mr. Pate shared a presentation to provide an update for public art opportunities in the College District to help foster discussion early on in the visioning process for this district. Mr. Micheel shared that as part of EnvisionCR, the Community Development Department should engage with neighborhoods and districts to complete neighborhood action plans, area action plans, and/or corridor action plans. They are a deeper dive into a neighborhood and transportation corridor to look at transportation and land use to understand the current public art inventory and make recommendations for art in each district. Mr. Pate shared various opportunities at the future Center Point Road and Coe Road roundabout, Kohawk Stadium, Central Park, Mission of Hope, Franklin School, Tomahawk Park/Franklin Field, CEMAR Trail Trailhead, Old Utility Site, Artist’s Memorial Park, Daniels Park, and Wildwood Dr NE/Maplewood Dr NE.
b. Public Art Project Proposed by the Downtown Self-Supported Municipal Improvement District (Downtown SSMID) – Jesse Thoeming

Jesse Thoeming shared a presentation on a proposal for the LOVE Sculpture by Robert Indiana for a potential public art piece for downtown Cedar Rapids.

- 14.5’ x 6’ x 2.5’ stainless steel
- $26,500 including shipping (Alibaba out China)
- 70 day lead time from day of purchase order
- Copyright and warranty concerns addressed
- Purchase needs to be approved by Downtown SSMID

Commissioner Van Allen asked if the Downtown SSMID has considered words other than “love”. Mr. Thoeming shared that the Downtown SSMID would be open to considering other words.

Commissioner Stamats shared that the vision for downtown Cedar Rapids is to bring in as much unique art as possible, and suggested that the Commission work together with the Downtown SSMID on the City Hall public art project.

Commissioner Ocken asked if the Downtown SSMID would be open to using the funds for another type of unique public art piece. Mr. Thoeming stated that the art piece itself is negotiable, and does not have to be the proposed Robert Indiana piece.

The Commissioners discussed varying opinions of the piece and the benefit of working together with the Downtown SSMID on some form of unique public art piece, even if the Commission decides not to specifically recommend the LOVE sculpture.

Commissioner Stamats put forth a motion to vote for or against the Downtown SSMID moving forward with placement of the 14’ LOVE sculpture on City-owned property. The motion failed, opposed by Commissioner Ocken, Commissioner Stamats, Commissioner Conrad, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Dagit, Commissioner Berger, and Commissioner Van Allen. Commissioner Glassberg and Commissioner Scriven were non-votes.

Commissioner Stamats requested that City staff share the charter, vision, and mission statement of the Visual Arts Commission with the Downtown SSMID. Mr. Micheel stated that City staff would invite Mr. Thoeming back to the December meeting and bring him up to speed on the public art project.
c. UFG Park Sculpture Project Update
The Commission reviewed the synopsis that Cara Briggs Farmer put together explaining the sculpture, as well as materials, dimensions, installation, and budget. Mr. Pate shared that her budget did not include installation as previously discussed. Mr. Pate shared that the RFQ for construction of the UFG Pocket Park will go before City Council on Nov 27.

4. Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Next Meeting: December 13, 2018