Visual Arts Commission Minutes
Thursday, September 13, 2018 | 3:30 – 4:30 pm
City Hall - Culver Conference Room (Third Floor)
101 1st Street SE, Cedar Rapids IA

Commissioners Present: Bill Stamats, Chair; David Van Allen, Anne Johnson, Barbara Green; Ashley Glassberg; Kayt Conrad

Commissioners Absent: Lynn Ocken, Karla Scriven, Alexis Dagit

Community Development Staff Present: Bill Miecheel, Seth Gunnerson, Eric Pate

1. Public Input
None

2. Project Updates
   a. UFG Pocket Park Sculpture
      Bill Miecheel, Community Development Assistant Director, informed the Commission that he, Commissioner Ocken, and Eric Pate, Community Development Planner, met with Anne Stamats about an artist that the Visual Arts Commission had expressed interest. Ms. Stamats provided options to the sub-committee for review. Mr. Miecheel stated that committing to a sculpture before knowing what the mural will look like is up for discussion. The challenge is that the mural will likely be on a different timeline than the sculpture. The timeline is yet to be determined on the mural. There was discussion about one project leading the other. From the perspective of the Commission, there is more control over the sculpture than the mural, since Steve Emerson privately owns the building. Confluence sent preliminary final drawings, and anticipate cost estimates shortly. Construction will likely take place in the fall of 2018. Ms. Stamats proposed that a limestone block base on top of a concrete sidewalk is used and that she will be managing the installation.

   b. UFG Pocket Park Wall Mural
      Commissioner Stamats informed the Commission that Commissioner Dagit researched artists for the mural. Murals and More have contacted six local, regional artists. Eliezer Sotillo and Cyrus Fountain are both available, interested, and within price range. Eliezer quoted $7K for the mural and Cyrus quoted $10K. Artist Matt Kluber would also be available for a projection piece that Commissioner Dagit will research. Mr. Miecheel shared that the City would likely contribute gap funds, but could not fund the majority due to the mural going on a private building. Commissioner Dagit is in discussion with the Murals and More Board regarding their contribution. Steve Emerson will paint the wall in preparation for the mural, as well as provide a hydraulic boom.
3. Discussion & Possible Action Items
   a. City Hall Public Art
   Commissioner Stamats opened discussion with the Commission for the City Hall Light Sculpture RFP. It was proposed to set the allotted budget at $55,000, leaving $5,000 for the maquette (or rendering) and travel. The City typically does not release funds before rendered services, and this will require additional research by City staff. The next steps include City staff drafting an updated RFP with the new language. The Commission agreed that a final decision would be made on the RFP at the October 11 VAC meeting. The RFP will then go before the City Council Development Committee on Oct 16 and City Council on Oct 23.

4. Adjournment
   The meeting adjourned around 4:30pm.

   Next Meeting: October 11, 2018