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Museums & Cultural Affairs

The City of El Paso Public Art Committee (PAC)
Tuesday, March 14, 2017, 3:30 PM
MCAD Board Room

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order.** Meeting was called to order at 3:32 pm.

2. **Roll Call.**

Members Present: Stefanie Block Uribarri, Edmund Castle, Derek Caulfield, Ann Kruzich, Gregory McNicol, Marina Monsisvais, Abel Saucedo, and Laura Turon

Members Absent: Isela Ocegueda, Daniela Quesada Rivas

Others Present: Aidee Cosme, Miriam Garcia, Kevin Burns, and Cindy Kieffer Díaz

3. **Public Comment.** None

4. **Approval of Minutes.** Chair requested a motion to approve the December 13, 2016 minutes. Gregory McNicol motioned to approve the minutes; Stefanie Block Uribarri seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, motion passed unanimously.

5. **Discussion and Action on Eastside Regional Park.** Brad J. Goldberg presented the Conceptual Design for the Eastside Regional Park via PowerPoint. Mr. Goldberg presented the Master Plan which includes Phase 1. He mentioned that Carolyn Law was to do the Public Art Plan with artwork located in the Plaza Art Project. The Plaza Art Project cost \$205,000 plus construction credits. Mr. Goldberg mentioned and presented the design of the granite seating pieces, the mesquite trees, and the lighting. He explained the patterns from Hueco Tanks which influenced the design for the seating pieces which are strategically placed underneath the trees. He presented an example of his past work completed in Phoenix. Mr. Goldberg mentioned there will be lighting because the site will have both daytime and nighttime views. He mentioned that there are many different ways to light the area. Gregory McNicol wanted to know what other tree types are surrounding the installation. Mr. Goldberg stated they are planning on using mesquite quite heavily because it's very durable. Greg mentioned that it was from his personal experience that the DG in El Paso does not behave the same as the DG in the Phoenix area and that it may require a stabilizer. Marina Monsisvais asked if the granite seating would be polished or left natural. Mr. Goldberg stated that it would not be polished because they do not want them to be slippery. The granite would have a slip resistant finish. Abel Saucedo asked if the granite absorbed heat. Mr. Goldberg mentioned they would use a light colored granite but the trees would provide shade for them. Mr. McNicol mentioned that there is no tree farm here so would need to get the trees from Mountain States Farm in the Tucson area. Mr. McNicol would like them to stay away from getting the Chilean trees and to consider other trees in working with the landscape architect. Greg also wanted to mention that the mesquite is not a very showy tree and might want to consider a different type of tree to make it more interesting. Mr. McNicol is also concerned about the DG and they will have to add in a stabilizer. Edmund Castle would like to make sure the City would maintain the trees. Aidee Cosme mentioned that it is part of the component so Parks will maintain the park. Mr. Saucedo would like to know if there will already be seating in the surrounding area. Ms. Cosme stated that the plaza area is the only seating area between the auditorium and the amphitheater. Ms. Cosme mentioned that Mr. Goldberg will come back to another meeting and present again on the lighting. Mr. McNicol would like the lighting to accent the stones rather than the trees. Mr. Castle mentioned he would like to see the decomposed granite removed completely. Mr. McNicol mentioned that there is a test sample of a new product which has been used in the Kern area and will send the committee members the name and information on the product. Gregory McNicol moved to approve the Eastside Regional Park Design with the recommendation that they will need to stabilize and maintain the DG system and that they work with the Landscape Architect to make sure the trees in this area are maintained and are different than the surrounding trees, and that the lighting also be looked at. Derek Caulfield seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and the motion passed unanimously.

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6. Discussion and Action on the Amended 2017 Public Art Plan. Aidee Cosme began by saying they are planning on releasing the RFQ for the Montana RTS, Brio System. They had a meeting with Sun Metro and they want to increase the allocation for that project from \$350,000 to \$550,000. Add \$200,000 more to the project because they want the artist to do something bigger for the Airport Terminal and the Far East Transit Terminal. Marina Monsisvais inquired on how much the budget was for the other ones, and Ms. Cosme stated that it was \$300,000. Gregory McNicol motioned to approve the increase of \$200,000 to the Amended 2017 Public Art Plan. Stefanie Block Uribarri seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and the motion passed unanimously.

7. Discussion and Action on the ASP Selection for City Entryways (Sun City Lights) Project. Aidee Cosme mentioned that they had an artist selection panel meeting with three artists that presented their proposals. Stefanie Block Uribarri indicated that there were three proposals and the one being presented was the best of the three. Ms. Block Uribarri gave the presentation of the artist's (Christopher Weed) artwork that was chosen via PowerPoint. Ms. Block Uribarri mentioned Mr. Weed has done a number of public art commissions. Mr. Weed fabricates almost everything himself. Some of his artwork includes the Thumb Tack, Open Door, and Keys to the City. Ms. Block Uribarri mentioned that Mr. Weed is open to suggestions so he is not solely attached to any of these proposals. The only artwork that is going to be approachable is the Door at the El Paso/Juarez Bridge. Ms. Block Uribarri mentioned that there is no specific location for any of these yet. Gregory McNicol motioned to approve the ASP Selection for the City Entryways Project. Stefanie Block Uribarri seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and the motion passed unanimously.

8. Adjournment. Gregory McNicol motioned to adjourn the March 14, 2017 meeting at 4:22 p.m. Laura Turon seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and the motion passed unanimously. Next meeting scheduled for April 11, 2017.

Approved for content by:
Aidee Cosme, Public Art CIP Associate

Respectfully submitted by:
Cindy Kieffer Díaz, Secretary, EPMH

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