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Museums & Cultural Affairs

The City of El Paso Public Arts Committee (PAC)
Tuesday, May 14, 2013, 3:30 PM
MCAD Board Room

MINUTES

- 1. Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 3:35 pm.
- 2. Roll Call: Members Present:** Melissa Barba-Espinosa, Robert Gonzalez, Ken Gorski, Jeannine Kennedy, Marina Monsisvais (Chair), Jane Thomas.
Members Absent: Anna Aleman, Kim Bauer.
Others Present: Pat Dalbin, Jeff Howell, Misty Castaneda.
- 3. Public Comment:** None.
- 4. Approval of Minutes.** Chair asked for approval of the Minutes for the last meeting on April 16, 2013, as submitted. Jane Thomas so moved; Melissa Barba-Espinosa seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.
- 5. Discussion on the Status of the Upper Valley Roundabout Schematic Documents by Margarita Cabrera, Artist.** Pat Dalbin began by providing members a brief update on the project, noting that the artist has turned in a maquette, which was provided for viewing by members. Pat continued to explain that she is purchasing a pre-fabricated dome and adding an extension, which needs approval from the pre-fab company to ensure that the dome can support it. The engineering drawings were incomplete as they were labeled 'not for construction'. Pat mentioned that the artist was informed her project needed to be engineered to withstand 90mph winds. Melissa Barba-Espinosa asked if melting gun metal for the birds was still a possibility, and Pat replied that she is changing her mind and now wants to do talavera, but she would need to work with someone on figuring out how to attach that to the metal. Pat continued to say that Margarita was told she needs to submit a complete set of engineering drawings with specifications on how the birds will be attached, samples, and archival materials or information that the design is solid. Robert Gonzalez asked if the concept drawings were available because the project is totally different and Pat replied affirmatively. Marina Monsisvais wondered if her vision got lost while trying to make the project architecturally sound. Jeff Howell noted that the dome structure would need to be checked annually to make sure the bolts were tight, as the wind or light shaking may make them loose. Members expressed concern that children may try to climb it as the dome structure is essentially a jungle gym. Robert Gonzalez asked if the artist was still doing the community project where an El Paso resident and a Juarez resident would mold a bird together before casting it in metal, and Pat replied affirmatively. Melissa Barba-Espinosa felt that it would be beautiful but expressed concern about whether it would hold up in strong winds. Robert Gonzalez asked what the project budget was, and Pat replied it is \$70,000. Jane Thomas asked what the committee originally saw when the project was first presented and Jeannine Kennedy replied that all the birds were taking flight together, and the maquette does not represent that at all. Robert Gonzalez stated that the structure should be reconsidered entirely, and general discussion on possible forms followed.
- 6. Discussion on the Status of the AAA Baseball Stadium Public Art Projects.** Pat Dalbin began by reminding members that artists were working on public art for the baseball stadium. Gaspar Enriquez got images together and the Baseball Hall of Fame would be working in conjunction with the City to approve the images, which were provided for review by members via a PowerPoint slideshow. Jane Thomas asked where they would be, and Pat replied they would be dispersed at different locations throughout the stadium. Pat explained that the chosen images would be painted and high-resolution photographs would be taken before being sent out to free-form for attachment to large porcelain enamel panels. Eleven images were shown for consideration, to be narrowed down to six for placement at the baseball stadium. Pat reiterated that the members were to have discussion before Gaspar went to the Baseball Hall of Fame representatives to get their input, before bringing it back to the committee. General discussion

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followed as members reviewed the images. Pat informed members that the PAC would make aesthetic comments on what images would work after Gaspar speaks with the group he is working with to see what they say. Robert Gonzalez stated that the feedback Gaspar receives from his group would be what is appropriate as far as content and history. Pat will share the group's comments with him before he moves forward. Robert Gonzalez suggested that Gaspar should balance the information that the Hall of Fame people want to include with his own hand. Pat moved on with some images of Robert Davidoff's work, which concentrated more on the history of El Paso. Ken Gorski expressed concern that some of the work was not in keeping with the baseball theme. Robert Gonzalez suggested that Robert should submit additional proposals that are baseball-oriented. Ken Gorski suggested that the Cohen brothers were so influential in El Paso baseball and perhaps should be made a part of the project. Robert Gonzalez asked what would be conveyed to Robert Davidoff, and Pat replied that his proposal should be baseball-related. Jeannine Kennedy asked what would be said to Gaspar, and Pat replied that she would relay whatever he chooses should have his signature hand on the piece so that when we look at the piece, we know it is a Gaspar. Also, that it is his choice to pick what he believes he can expand on to create a beautiful piece.

7. Discussion and Action on Creation of a Sub-Committee to Review the Public Art Master Plan Process. Pat Dalbin informed members that Todd Bressi and Meredith McKinley were hired and would start interviewing City staff about the Public Art program. A sub-committee of the Public Art Committee will be created to meet and work with them and report back to the Public Art Committee on their plan. At least three people from the PAC will be needed to participate along with an arts organization representative and a representative from a City department. Jane Thomas asked if the working Public Art Committee shouldn't be the group to do so, and Pat replied that she wanted three people on the sub-committee in order to avoid a quorum and to serve an advisory purpose. She further explained that the group would consult with Tom Bressi and Meredith McKinley directly to work on the Public Art Master Plan as it is being developed for the sub-committee's review and input. Marina Monsisvais, Ken Gorski and Melissa Barba-Espinosa volunteered to serve on the sub-committee. Chair requested a motion to accept herself, Melissa and Ken as part of the Public Art Master Plan Committee. Jeannine Kennedy so moved; Melissa Barba-Espinosa seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

8. Discussion on the Public Art Status Report. No discussion at this time.

9. Adjournment. Chair requested a motion to adjourn. Jane Thomas so moved; Jeannine Kennedy seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 4:23pm. Next meeting scheduled for June 11, 2013.

Approved for content by:
Patricia Dalbin, Public Art Program Coordinator

Respectfully submitted by:
Misty Castaneda, Administrative Assistant

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