

STERLING HEIGHTS ARTS COMMISSION
Minutes of Tuesday, March 4, 2025 Meeting
Location: City Hall, Conference Room 028

Members Present: Ron Bindle, Jan Burns, Barbara Chudzik, Patrick Michalski, Wendy Popko, Sue Rhoten, Leonard Sadro, Jeanne Schabath-Lewis, Lisa Stout and Elizabeth Vincent

Members Absent: Jessica Conti and Krystina O'Toole

Representing the City: Sue Giallombardo, Community Relations Specialist

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to approve the minutes of the February 2025 Arts Commission meeting; made by Chudzik; Seconded by: Burns Ayes: all Nays: none

AGENDA ITEMS:

A. Public Art Project Updates

- Giallombardo stated that Community Garden plans are moving along at a nice pace. She added that the deadline for the public art pieces (a swing and a bench) June 10, she will share the submissions at the April meeting. Chudzik asked how the security and monitoring of the garden plots is going to work. Giallombardo stated that the plots will be gated in one large enclosure. Owners of the plots will each have a key fob. Giallombardo stated that hopefully the owners will be respectful of the garden plots, if not, they will no longer get access to the area. An employee of the Nature Center will be monitoring the garden. Burns asked about the two pieces and suggested that children be involved. Giallombardo stated that the idea was already discussed and said that since the pieces were main attractions to the garden, it was preferred that professional artists paint them. Also, city staff involved is pushing for the pieces to be complete by the date of the Grand Opening/Ribbon Cutting on May 1st.
- Popko suggested that the group re-address the painting of some of the utility boxes, and have kids involved in the project.
- Bindle stated that he has an artist that would like to apply as a Featured Artist for October; Giallombardo stated that it would be fine, adding that the artist could have his work displayed for two months if he'd like.
- Sadro shared renderings of some lock project ideas as he is interested in creating and installing a lock sculpture for the City. Giallombardo stated that Kyle Langlois has already approved something to be installed in one of the parks. Sadro shared the dimensions and details of a peace sign, a four-leaf clover, a key, infinity interlocking rings, and a couple others. The peace sign design was an overall favorite among the group. The proposed peace sign would measure 7' in diameter and sit

about 4' off the ground. Michalski suggested adding paved paths around the sculpture with "hippy" themed flowers such as daisies. Giallombardo will present to Melanie Davis and Kyle Langlois, and work to get the project moving forward.

- Stout shared a design for the city logo to be made into a lock sculpture. Giallombardo stated that she would share this as well.
- Giallombardo stated that the artist has been selected for the pillars in front of the Library and Police Department, and she is just waiting on the insurance document; she should be able to start as soon as the temps warm up. The artist's name is Tatum Lorway.
- Giallombardo shared that Melanie Davis has been meeting with the Nordiq brothers, the artists that created "The Seed". They are working on an interchangeable, public art billboard to be placed in the Utica Road median.
- Giallombardo said that she is still waiting for staff from the city's Facilities Maintenance department to provide detailed measurements for the replacement artwork going into the clock tower at the Fire Station on Van Dyke.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Popko stated that she attended the Black History Month dinner on Feb. 24 at the Community Center and served as a judge for the student art contest. The dinner was sponsored by the city's African American Coalition. She added that Conti was slated to judge as well, but couldn't make it due to an illness.
- Giallombardo said that the lead members from the VFW Post 6250 recommended a Grand Marshal for the parade, and he has accepted. His name is John "Jack" Jones, he's a WWII veteran and a resident of Oakmont Manor Senior Living facility in Sterling Heights. His son said that he's in pretty good shape, is still walking un-aided and still "has his wits about him." The theme of this year's parade is "We Are One: Honoring Our Past, Uniting Our Future." Parade applications will be mailed in the next week, along with "Friends of the Parade" sponsorship letters.
- Bindle shared that his church, St. Michael's on Hayes Road hired the same mosaic artist that created the mural in the Community Center, Mary Gilhuly. Families were able to purchase 4"x4" squares to create their own tile. His family worked on a square together, and the project will be unveiled on March 16, 2025.

NEW BUSINESS: None

NEXT ARTS COMMISSION MEETING: Tuesday, April 3, 2025 at 6 p.m.