

BALTIMORE OFFICE OF PROMOTION & THE ARTS
PUBLIC ART COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

Date: July 22, 2015

Approval of Minutes & Announcement

June 2015 minutes approved.

Gift of Public Art Review

Baltimore Rotterdam Sister City Committee

Location: Any harbor area

Presented by: Gislin Dagnelie

Phase: review of the gift

Overview:

Gislin Dagnelie from Baltimore Rotterdam Sister City Committee (BRSCC) presented a gift of public art constructed by the Dutch artist Aloysuis Van Saus. Dagnelie presented the history and function of Baltimore Rotterdam Sister City Committee. He emphasized the similarities between the two port-oriented cities and presented *The Seal* as a symbolic gift of Public Art from Rotterdam to Baltimore. The gift is a 2 meters long, 85cm wide, and 5mm thick flat metal sculpture in shape of a seal. The original and identical seal sculpture by the same artist exists in Rotterdam harbor. The transportation of artwork will be provided by Steinweg trading group and BRSCC will fundraise to cover the installation cost. The sculpture will preferably installed somewhere in Baltimore harbor with tidal environment and has public access. BRSCC is open for suggestion of a location. Dagnelie claimed the risk of vandalism and cost of maintenance to be low.

Commissioner Comments:

- Jann Rosen Queralt was concerned that the sculpture will turn into trash-collecting device on the water. She thought the holes in the piece will easily collect trash.
 - Gislin Dagnelie commented that he is positive it will not collect any trash with tidal activity.
- Elford Jackson questioned how the sculpture will be secured in the harbor and how the symbolism will be communicated to the public.
 - Gislin Dagnelie commented that the original piece in Rotterdam was welded onto a water pipe underwater. For mounting in Baltimore harbor, it could be secured on to metal bars that are embedded into concrete base. Also, there will be a plaque with information of the artist, the work, and BRSCC information installed on to the shore.
- Scott Rykiel liked the idea of having a sculpture in the water but asked if the seal shape is important and symbolic for Baltimore. He asked if the artist is open to create something more Baltimore.

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- Gislin Dagnelie commented that even though the seal is not particularly symbolic as much as tulips are to Netherlands, the animal do appear in Rotterdam harbor. He commented that the gift from the artist is as is.
- Frank Dittenhafer commented that the seal is not a strong symbolic or iconic image with connection to Baltimore. Jann Rosen Queralt personally wished the gift was of higher aesthetic.

Motion: Frank Dittenhafer made a motion to delay the voting for the gift of public art. Sandra Abbott seconded.

Vote: Pass

Aye- Scott Rykiel, Jann Rosen Queralt, Elissa Blount-Moorehead

Nay- none

Comments on Unreadiness:

- Frank Dittenhafer suggested to comeback with a design that is more recognizable as connection to Netherlands.
- Elissa Blount-Moorehead commented better prompt will be a nexus and bring recognizable connection to people of Baltimore.
- Jeremy Roundtree suggested providing more information about the artist and his other works for the next meeting. Also, a narrative about how *The Seal* was commissioned in Rotterdam will be helpful. Licensing and regulations on installing a sculpture on navigable waterway is another question to answer.

Friends of Public Art Presentation

Presented by: Mary Ann Mears and Cindy Kelly

Overview:

Mary Ann Mears and Cindy Kelly introduced themselves and the work Friends of Public Art have been doing in order to conserve public artworks in Baltimore city. They handed out copies of *Maintenance for Contemporary Public Artworks* and *Friends of Public Art-Overview from Binder*. Mary Ann Mears and Cindy Kelly advocated for the need of conservation for the city-commissioned public artworks that have not been taken care of for almost forty years. They presented examples of public art conservation programs in other cities and how conservation budget is generated through setting aside a percentage of public art monies. The city of Philadelphia had requested a separate line item in the capital budget for major conservation projects. Many other cities get maintenance monies from its operating budget. Mears and Kelly claimed that Baltimore city need to start an active conservation program no matter how small the initial budget is. There is also a need for signage for public artworks without any information available to the public. They suggested hiring conservation staff for more economical in-house treatment capability rather than contracting out everything.

Motion: Scott Rykiel motioned to table the last two items from the agenda. Jeremy Rountree seconded.

Aye- Elford Jackson, Sandra Abbott, Elissa Blount-Moorehead, Frank Dittenhafer, Jann Rosen Queralt

Nay- None

Commissioner comments:

- Jann Rosen Queralt inquired about the perimeters of the commissioner's power.
 - Elford Jackson confirmed that Public Art Committee commissioners have power to change the percentage of money allocated to public art commissions and conservation.
 - Sandra Abbott asked the commissioners of the importance in notifying the artists about their missing works.
 - Ryan Patterson explained the need to wait for the official report to be finished and published.
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Attending

PAC Commissioners:

Elford Jackson
Jeremy Rountree
Sandra Abbott
Elissa Blount-Moorehead
Frank Dittenhafer
Scott Rykiel
Jann Rosen Queralt

BOPA Staff: Ryan Patterson, Lou Joseph, Kim Domanski, Maggie Villegas, Bomin Jeon (Intern)

Friends of Public Art: Cindy Kelly, Mary Ann Mears

Baltimore Rotterdam Sister City Committee: Gislin Dagnelie