

MINUTES
Waukesha Public Library Board
Public Art Committee Meeting
Tuesday, March 7, 2017 5:00 P.M.
Library Board Room

DRAFT

Members Present: Chris Audley, Joan Francoeur, Lynn Gaffey, Executive Director Grant Lynch, Larry Nelson, Lynn Preston, Barb Reinhardt, Rose Sura, and Julie Stockinger

Members Absent: Sylvia Trewyn

Others Present: Artist: Joel Pfeiffer, Assistant Director John Klima, and Special Projects Coordinator Joan Quinlan

Committee Chair L. Preston opened the meeting at 5:01 p.m. Assistant Director John Klima was introduced. Executive Director Grant Lynch announced his resignation and said that it has been a privilege to work at the Waukesha Public Library and with Public Art Committee.

1. Approval of the minutes for January 31, 2017

B. Reinhardt moved to approve the minutes for January 31, 2017. J. Francoeur seconded, motion carried unanimously with L. Gaffey and R. Sura abstaining.

2. 2nd Interview with Artist Joel Pfeiffer

The Committee reviewed Artist Joel Pfeiffer's original proposal presented at the previous meeting. Mr. Pfeiffer showed samples of his glasswork to give the Committee an idea of what he was envisioning for the space above the revolving doors. The glass pieces would be encased in stainless steel frames and intertwined with a ribbon of stainless steel. Mr. Pfeiffer uses Frit or crushed glass so he can mix his own colors. Many of his pieces have four layers. There was a question on how visible the pieces would be. He said that his intention would be to make a maquette with wood to see how visible the artwork would be. He would make the piece so it can be disassembled in the event that the revolving door would need to be replaced. The Committee asked questions regarding how light would shine through the glass and if the glass would be visible at night with the current lighting. Mr. Pfeiffer said that solar lights could be a possibility and there is also electricity above the door. The title of the piece would be the "crown jewel" as he believes that the Library is the crown jewel in the community. L. Gaffey commented that she is not a big fan of Frit as it can become murky; she prefers using solid glass in her fused glass pieces Mr. Pfeiffer disagreed and said that he likes the flexibility and unlimited versatility of Frit. The timeframe for completing the artwork would be 3 months at a cost of \$6,500.00, which includes installation. The Committee thanked Mr. Pfeiffer for his time and he left.

3. Discussion/action regarding location of William Lemke's photograph

The Committee discussed several locations for William Lemke's photograph, including his original proposed location in the stairway. They decided to wait until the photograph is delivered before making a decision on the best location for the piece.

4. Discussion/recommendation regarding Samantha Williams' artwork

The Committee discussed the two color renditions of Samantha Williams' artwork. C. Audley said that he contacted the printer and the artwork would need to be under glass and not open to the elements. L. Gaffey said that she was only intrigued by the process. L. Preston said that the piece would appeal to teens. B. Reinhardt said that Samantha's artist

statement was about encouraging creativity. Executive Library Director Lynch said that her finished sample was vibrant. C. Audley stated that it seemed like the Committee was ambivalent about acquiring the piece, but felt that they liked the color and idea behind Samantha's artwork. L. Preston asked if the Committee was interested in purchasing Samantha's piece. She reviewed the decisions to date: William Lemke's photograph is purchased; the Committee would like to acquire Tom Rauschke's crane mobile, but funding is an issue; the Committee was not interested at this time in Tom Martin's mobile; the Committee is still undecided on Joel Pfeiffer's sculpture.

5. Discussion/action regarding fundraising for artwork

Committee Chair L. Preston said that there is limited Library funding available for public art. At the last meeting, the Committee discussed the possibility of donor funding for Tom Rauschke's mobile which will cost 8-10 thousand dollars. She asked if anyone knew of potential donors. The other thought is to cost share and have the library pay a portion. L. Nelson said that the Committee should identify the donors and invite them to speak with the artist. G. Lynch suggested that the Committee might consider having people purchase a part of the mobile. J. Stockinger said that the birds are different sizes and perhaps each bird could be purchased. L. Preston believed that it would be ideal if there was one sponsor for the entire piece. L. Gaffey said that she may know someone who might be willing to sponsor the art piece; she will contact them. C. Audley suggested local businesses may be interested as well. L. Nelson said that the Friends group has historically supported the public art initiative. The Committee is currently looking at \$17,000 to fund three pieces. L. Nelson said that he is behind recommending the three well-known artists. L. Gaffey agreed that the three artists: Lemke, Rauschke, and Pfeiffer should be in the Library's art collection. It was the consensus of the Committee to recommend adding the art pieces of Tom Rauschke and Joel Pfeiffer, but not Samantha Williams' artwork. L. Nelson asked if the concerns regarding Joel's piece were addressed. L. Gaffey said that she does not like the Frit method that Joel uses as it makes the glass look murky. L. Preston asked if others in the group had concerns with Joel's piece. B. Reinhardt said that the additional information provided today helped her envision how the pieces would be tied together showcasing the visual connection of his sculpture. J. Francoeur said that she liked the concept, but thought that the pieces were spheres and does not like the flat pieces. L. Nelson said that for him, the piece came alive with the light from the window shining through it. L. Gaffey said that the Committee should ask Mr. Pfeiffer to do a maquette for their review before committing to his piece. There was discussion on the timeline of the two larger projects: 8-12 months for Tom's sculpture and 3 months for Joel's. L. Preston believed that donors would not be able to commit to funding if they do not have something to see. C. Audley said that the donors could visit the artists in their studios. R. Sura commented that she liked the piece, but also thought that they were spheres. L. Preston liked the piece and agreed that the colors need to be tied together. J. Francoeur said that if there were enough enthusiasm for Joel's piece, she would like to see the color palette that he intends to use. J. Francoeur also suggested that a smaller sub-committee focus on finding donors. L. Gaffey said that she would be willing to be on the sub-committee. It was the consensus of the Committee that L. Preston contact Samantha and let her know that they are not interested in her work at this time. She will contact Joel and let him know that the Committee is still interested in his piece, but that they need to find a donor. She will ask Joel for a drawing that includes the colors that he intends to use in his glass sculpture. This will help any potential donors in gauging their support for Joel's artwork. She will also contact Tom to let him know that the Committee is interested but must secure funding before committing to his piece. (C. Audley, J. Francoeur, J. Klima, G. Lynch, L. Nelson, J. Stockinger, and R. Sura left at 6:10 p.m.)

6. Discussion/action regarding request to display artwork – Community Art Space: Charlotte Fung Miller; Matthew Miller; Abigail Engstrand

The sub-committee (L. Preston, L. Gaffey, and B. Reinhardt) reviewed the applications for Charlotte Fung Miller, Matthew Miller, and Abigail Engstrand to display artwork on the Community Art Space wall. It was the consensus of the sub-committee that the applications be unanimously approved.

7. Adjournment

Absent any objections, the meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

J. Quinlan, Recorder