

# CITY OF ASHLAND

## PUBLIC ART COMMISSION - REGULAR MEETING

May 20, 2022

### AGENDA

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

8:30 a.m. via Zoom

#### **ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Public Arts Commission regular meeting of April 15, 2022

#### **PUBLIC FORUM**

#### **LIAISON REPORTS**

- Council Liaison – Stefani Seffinger
- Community Development Liaison – Aaron Anderson/Johanna Tuthill
- APCR Liaison – Jim Lewis

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

- Vote for PAC meeting format
  - In person or Zoom meetings?
- Nominations and vote for vice-chair of PAC (begins May 2022)
- Comments on vandalism of public art works
- Presentation: Overview of Public Art with an Equity Lens (Cassie)
  - Q & A
- Discussion with Mayor Akins: “Public Art representing the soul of our community”

#### **PAC WORKPLAN and PROJECT UPDATES**

- First Friday Art Talks by Jennifer Corio
- Golden Connections
  - Vote on Plaque wording and approvals
  - Funding update of Plaque fabrication and base (Johanna)
  - Cleaning vandalism update (Johanna)
- Railroad District Medallions
  - Installation status (Johanna)
- Marking Ashland Places (MAP) II
  - Report on Historic Commission discussion
  - PAC interest in MAP II and additional MAP I Medallions

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Next Meeting:** June 17, 2022

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

Minutes from April 15, 2022 meeting

Draft Wording – Golden Connections Plaque

# CITY OF ASHLAND

## PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

April 15, 2022

*Draft* Minutes

### I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Stanley Smith called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m. via Zoom.

#### **Commissioners Present:**

Ken Engelund  
Cassie Preskenis  
Stanley Smith  
Laura Bloom  
Joel Frank  
Destiny Young

#### **Staff Present:**

Aaron Anderson, Associate Planner  
Johanna Tuthill, Associate Planner

#### **APRC Liaison:**

Jim Lewis (absent)

#### **Council Liaison:**

Stefani Seffinger

#### **Absent Members:**

Jennifer Longshore

#### **Members of the Public:**

Andy Stallman  
Peter Finkle  
John Pugh

### II. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

- "How to fund public art"
- "How does the PAC apply the lens of diversity, equity, and inclusion into the work they do?"
- Presentation by John Pugh

### III. PUBLIC FORUM

John Pugh gave a brief presentation with examples of his work showing his architectural illusions, and walked the PAC through the initial concept that he has created for the Elks lodge wall. The concept ties in the original Chautauqua domes breaking apart like an egg, and setting the stage for a Lithia Park scene with subtle evocations of Shakespeare.

Commissioner Smith asked about funding. Mr. Pugh responded that the Elks Lodge indicated that they are willing to fundraise for the project. Commissioner Bloom asked what the total cost of the project would be, and Mr. Pugh approximated around \$150,000. Commissioner Preskenis asked about the duration of the project, Mr. Pugh replied that it would take around 5-6 months with most of that work being off-site.

### IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Public Arts Commission regular meeting of February 18, 2022

Commissioners Engelund/Preskenis m/s to approve the minutes as presented. Voice Vote: ALL AYES. Motion passed 5-0.

# CITY OF ASHLAND

## V. LIAISON REPORTS

- Council Liaison – Stefani Seffinger – Councilor Seffinger informed the Commission that the Ashland High School had given a presentation to the City Council regarding the Land Acknowledgement Otterlifter Canoe project. They are now scheduled to return at a City Council Regular meeting. She also mentioned that the City budget remains the greatest issue before the Council, and that some cuts have begun to be made. A survey will also go out to the Residents of Ashland regarding the budget sometime in May.
- Community Development Liaison – Associate Planner Aaron Anderson added that the Ashland high School would be going before the Council at their April 19, 2022 meeting. This meeting will also be the start of in-person meetings for the Council. Mr. Anderson requested that a Commissioner should be present to represent the Otterlifter Project. Commissioner Preskenis stated that she would attempt to attend and that Commissioner Young had offered to attend as well.

## VI. OTHER BUSINESS

- Nominations and vote for new Public Arts Commission Chair

Commissioner Smith announced that he should not be considered for Chair due to his busy schedule. Commissioner Bloom nominated Commissioner Engelund, who accepted.

Commissioners Bloom/Preskenis m/s to appoint Commissioner Engelund to Chair of the Public Arts Commission.  
Voice Vote: ALL AYES. Motion passed 5-0.

## VII. PAC WORKPLAN

- Golden Connections by Jennifer Corrio and David Frei
  - Status of sculpture – Commissioner Smith gave a brief update regarding the dedication ceremony scheduled for April 23, 2022. The Commission will be bringing a table, chairs, refreshments, as well as a red ribbon and scissors for the ceremony.
  - Public Works Superintendent Mike Morrison will bring the Medallions and set up a sound system for the ceremony.
  - Plaque –
    - a. Design – The Commission discussed changing the verbiage on the Plaque to allow for the placement of additional medallions in the future. Commissioners Young and Engelund stated that they had written a revised version of the plaque to remove mention of the number of medallions placed.
    - b. Commissioner Smith mentioned that the Commission had passed a motion to add the QR to the plaque at the March 18, 2022 meeting. Commissioner Engelund commented that a new motion can be made to revise this.
    - c. The map and QR code were also removed from the plaque. There was general discussion over the verbiage for the plaque.
    - d. The Commission discussed using various stone types use as the base of the plaque. The use of cement was briefly discussed but rejected. Commissioner Frank assured the Commission that he can get a final quote on the plaque once the verbiage is finalized.
- Masterworks Medallions – Mr. Anderson briefly updated the Commission on the progress of the medallions. He reported that Historic Commissioner Dale Shostrom is continuing to work with Public Works regarding the location of one of the medallions. Commissioner Shostrom is also preparing drawings that will then be used for the bidding process for the concrete contractors.

# CITY OF ASHLAND

## VIII. GOALS AND ACTION ITEMS

- "How to fund public art"  
Commissioner Engelund discussed how to advocate for public art as a philanthropic benefit to the city, and wished to investigate how the Commission would solicit gifts for public art projects. Commissioner Smith reminded the Commission that the Japanese Gardens were partially funded by a private citizen. Citing the AMC Mr. Anderson said that the Commission can solicit gifts and bequests public gifts for art projects, but that this practice is rarely employed.
- "How does the PAC apply the lens of diversity, equity, and inclusion into the work they do?"  
Commissioner Preskenis informed the Commission that they had been approached by the Social Equity and Racial Justice Commission (SERJ) about sending a member of the PAC to attend their June meeting to discuss how they apply the lens of diversity and equity to their projects. She suggested that the Commission could consider beginning their meetings with a land acknowledgement. Commissioner Smith agreed that equal opportunity and inclusion of minority art and artists is an important discussion to have.  
  
Commissioner Preskenis remarked that she would not be comfortable addressing SERJ without the Commission having a greater understanding of what equity means to the Commission and how it selects its art pieces. Commissioner Smith suggested that Commissioner Preskenis give the Commission a presentation to educate it on equity and inclusion at the May 20, 2022 meeting. Commissioner Bloom spoke to the Commission's evaluation of public art and that they need to consider equal opportunities for all without unintentionally excluding any groups. Commissioner Preskenis expressed enthusiasm for providing the Commission with a presentation at the May meeting.
- Say Their Names – Update  
Jessica Freedman from the Say Their Names Committee have selected a piece and plan to come before the Commission at the June meeting.
- Partnerships with Community Art Organizations  
Commissioners Smith and Preskenis have been working on uploading all of the Commission's known contacts from other art organizations into a searchable database.
- Community Engagement – First Fridays  
Commissioner Engelund gave a brief update regarding the engagement plan for First Friday. Commissioners Longshore, Preskenis, and Engelund will be assisted by Peter Finkle with their presentations at the First Friday in May.
- Ashland High School Intern – Status Update  
Mr. Anderson informed the Commission that they could not solicit the hiring of an intern, but added that if a student approached the Commission about involvement then that would be permissible.

## IX. ADJOURNMENT - 10:00 AM Next Meeting: May 20, 2022

## X. ATTACHMENTS Minutes from March 18, 2022 meeting

## Golden Connections

By Jennifer Corio and Dave Frei

This sculpture, "Golden Connections" represents a unification of various parts of Ashland that come from the historic origins of the city. "Golden Connections" occupies one of four central hubs that recognizes the unique history of Ashland and helped to put it on the map. Its placement in Ashland's Railroad District serves as a historic marker and wayfinding project to provide a connection to the history of Ashland on today's landscape. Accompanying this sculpture, are medallions inlaid through the Railroad District that commemorate historic sites of Ashland.

The artists explain, "The Golden Connections merges a trio of powerful symbols to tell the story of how the railroad spurred a huge transformation in Ashland when in 1887, the Southern Pacific chose the town as a main stop between their Portland-San Francisco line with a full-service maintenance yard . . . as well as, an offering of gratitude and forgiveness to the Chinese workers who worked under difficult conditions to build these tracks."