



CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION SPECIAL CALLED MEETING OFFICIAL MINUTES NOVEMBER 29, 2022

ALPHARETTA CITY HALL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS | 2 PARK PLAZA | 6:00 PM

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I. CALL TO ORDER

- ❖ Chairwoman Smeal called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

- Cultural Arts Commission Members Present
 - Chairwoman Dianna Smeal
 - Vice Chair Gene Andrews
 - Commissioner Melody Cookson
 - Commissioner Shital Foster
 - Commissioner Sumita Patel
 - Commissioner Michael Barsky
 - Commissioner Sabine Genet
- Cultural Arts Commission Members Absent
 - Alternate Commissioner Francesca Connolly
 - Alternate Commissioner Alicia Burr
- Staff
 - Morgan Rodgers, Director of Recreation, Parks, & Cultural Services
 - Kim Zane Manning, Cultural Services Manager, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
 - Amber O'Dwyer, Administrative Office Coordinator, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Cultural Arts Commission Meeting Minutes (July 26, 2022, Meeting)

- ❖ Chairwoman Smeal called for a motion to approve the minutes.
 - Commissioner Cookson offered a motion to approve the minutes from the 7.26.2022 meeting.
 - Commissioner Foster seconded the motion.
- ❖ The motion was approved unanimously (7-0).

V. OLD BUSINESS

- There was no old business to discuss.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

NOTE: Items "b" and "c" were heard prior to "a" as the Evans Construction applicant arrived late.

- Evans Construction – Eagle Public Arts Application
 - Sarah Evans Rothwein and Kenny Key with Evans Construction came forward to present the item.
 - The sculpture is symbolic of an "eagle" and is 120 inches tall from the base to the tip of the wing and in depth. The base will be wrapped in masonry rock to match the retaining wall behind it. The silver-topped base is 3 ½ - 4 feet in height.
 - Commissioner Barsky asked if the applicant had a site-plan to demonstrate the exact location of the sculpture in relation to the highway.
 - Commissioner Patel attempted to explain the location in relevance to Gwinnett Tech.
 - Mrs. O'Dwyer showed an ariel shot from Google Maps to show the approximate location.
 - Commissioner Genet asked how the design was conceptualized.
 - Mrs. Rothwein stated the applicant initially reached out to the artist as that they wanted to have something that seemed organic yet powerful and the artist's work had resembled this feeling.
 - Chairwoman Smeal mentioned the artist is quite well known having done the "lion and mouse" and several indoor structures at the library as well as structures along the Atlanta Beltline.
 - Commissioner Foster asked for a better explanation of the eagle as she struggled to see the design.
 - Mrs. Rothwein stated the "eagle" was positioned as swooping downward with the tail raised higher than the head.
 - Commissioner Barsky asked if the finish was matted or mirrored and if mirrored, if anyone had concerns of the sun's reflection creating a beacon on a busy intersection.
 - Mrs. Rothwein stated she didn't think the placement would lead to a hazardous glare and that the structure was further removed from the road than it appeared. Nevertheless, the structure would have a smooth stainless steel, mirrored finish.
 - Commissioner Foster asked who approved the design selected.

- Mrs. Rothwein stated that Evans Construction, along with the land developer had input in the design.
- Commissioner Patel asked about the concern of sharp edges on the design and the risk of injury for children who may live near the structure.
 - Mrs. Rothwein stated the structure will have sharp pointed edges but would be welded resulting in a certain level of smoothness and that placement on the pedestal should position the structure out of reach for most children to access.
- Chairwoman Smeal stated the “saxophone” sculpture downtown has a similar, mirrored finish. She thought the “eagle” was a fun design and noticed the committee thought it resembled a “butterfly”, thereby leaving it open to interpretation. She also noted it seemed to fit the space well.
- Commissioner Genet asked if there was a maintenance plan suggested from the artist.
 - Mrs. Rothwein responded that the artist stated this is one of the best and easiest materials to clean with a polish and that the building manager would be responsible for upkeep.
- ❖ Commissioner Cookson offered a motion to approve the eagle public art structure design submitted by Evans Construction to be installed at 3050 Northwinds Parkway, Alpharetta, GA 30009 with the inclusion of the minor modifications as recommended by the Public Art Committee.
 - Commissioner Genet seconded the motion.
- ❖ The motion was approved unanimously (7-0).
- Chairwoman Smeal asked when the structure would be installed.
 - Mrs. Rothwein stated the artist gave a timeline of eighty days from contract signing.
- **Empire Communities – Firefly Public Arts Application**
 - Peter Ewing, Associate with Empire Communities on the Land Development Team, came forward to present the item.
 - Mr. Ewing stated Empire Communities would be presenting projects at the intersections of Hembree Road and Westside Pkwy and at Kimball Bridge Road at North Point Pkwy.
 - Alpharetta staff and City Council asked that the corner at each intersection of the property be dedicated to an integrated landscape/hardscape with an artistic monument as part of the North Point Eco District plan.
 - The first intersection corner at Hembree Road and Westside Pkwy has 3300 square feet designated for the space to include a low, gabion basket wall containing river rock and draped with creeping fig.
 - In addition, two custom-made Corten steel fireflies crafted by a metal artist in Lincolnton, NC would accent the wall. The steel fireflies should naturally rust to the color shown in the renderings.
 - Mr. Ewing showed ariel shots to show the exact location of artistic monument the map.
 - Chairwoman Smeal asked if Mr. Ewing could proceed with the details of the second structure submitted for approval.

- Mrs. O'Dwyer asked if the topic could remain focused on the firefly structure as each item was intended to be presented and voted upon separately.
- Chairwoman Smeal asked questions regarding the height of the monument.
 - Mr. Ewing stated it is set for 4 feet in height to not overpower the landscaping and hardscaping while emphasizing the fireflies.
 - Chairwoman Smeal expressed the concern of the sign within the wall being no larger than 10 inches in height.
 - Kim Manning came forward to state the Eco District sign was a requirement of Community Development Department and was not a sign intended for naming the community but to be in keeping with other signs indicating the Eco District.
 - Mr. Ewing responded the size of the sign has been adjusted to 12 ½ feet tall.
- Commissioner Barsky asked about the use of Corten steel and the concern of rust lines running along the sign and/or wall.
 - Mr. Ewing stated the fireflies are positioned to set away from the wall to purposely avoid run lines. The hope is that any runoff would drip into the landscaping and not the wall or sign. The firefly overtop could also be resituated to avoid the sign.
- Chairwoman Smeal asked about the size of the fireflies noting that an increase in size was also a requirement.
 - Mr. Ewing stated the fireflies are to be as large as three feet wide.
- Commissioner Foster asked about the Eco District sign (also made of Corten steel) being likely to have the same rust runoff concerns as the fireflies.
 - Mr. Ewing stated that the wall is made of a gabion basket which is a caged wall filled with river rock. The Eco District sign will be adhered to the front of the cage and therefore there should not be a concern of the Corten steel rust run-off on the wall itself.
 - Commissioner Barsky mentioned when it rains, the rust could drip between the rocks into the gabion baskets.
- Mr. Ewing stated the rust was part of the concept because the Eco District's design elements seemed to incorporate an "earthy look" and the developer was attempting to incorporate this aesthetic.
- Commissioner Foster asked if the artist could be requested to apply an acrylic sealant when the structures reach the rust phase to eliminate the rust concerns.
 - Mr. Ewing stated that this could certainly be considered.
- Commissioner Genet stated she liked that the wall was not overwhelming for the space and the ecology behind the design. She asked if the creeping fig would overtake the sign in time making the sign illegible.
 - Mr. Ewing stated the vine grows slowly but will be subject to maintenance by the community HOA to prevent overgrowth.

- Commissioner Genet also mentioned the greenage on the wall could help mask rust runoff.
- Chairwoman Smeal stated one main concern seemed to be the rust runoff onto the sign and deferred to Commissioner Barsky for thoughts.
 - Commissioner Barsky stated Corten steel can be sealed as this is not a unique problem.
 - Mr. Ewing mentioned the applicant would be happy to investigate a sealant with the artist to prevent rust runoff.
- ❖ Commissioner Foster offered a motion to approve the Eco District signage and enrichment design submitted by Empire Communities to be installed at the Firefly Community development with the inclusion of minor modifications as recommended by the Public Art Committee and if the artist incorporates a solution to the concerns of rust for the art structures and signage.
 - Commissioner Cookson seconded the motion.
- ❖ The motion was approved unanimously (7-0).
- **Empire Communities – Pinecone Public Arts Application**
 - Peter Ewing, Associate with Empire Communities on the Land Development Team, came forward to present the item.
 - The public art sign and structure is to be located at the intersection of Kimball Bridge Road and North Point Pkwy.
 - The wall and sign design are the same concept as that of the Firefly Community. The one difference is that instead of fireflies, the signage will include three large Corten steel pinecones.
 - Mr. Ewing stated the artist would be the same as for the fireflies, but the pinecones were not a unique design unlike that of the fireflies.
 - Commissioner Patel asked what would be in front of the sign.
 - Mr. Ewing stated either grass or mulch.
 - Chairwoman Smeal asked if the pinecones were mobile.
 - Mr. Ewing stated while they are mobile, they will be secured to prevent theft.
 - Commissioner Genet asked if the install would be near a walkway that could entice children to climb on the pinecones.
 - Mr. Ewing stated there was a sidewalk along Kimball Bridge Road to North Point Pkwy, and the developer wished to incorporate a connecting gravel pathway so that people could access the signage.
 - Commissioner Genet asked if there was concern in risk of injury or infection from the rusting pinecones should children attempt to climb them.
 - Mr. Ewing stated the developer had not thought of that.
 - Commissioner Barsky asked if the signs would have up-lighting.
 - Mr. Ewing replied landscape lighting would be used to up-light the signage.

- Chairwoman Smeal mentioned the concern of the rust lines once more from the design.
- Commissioner Foster raised a concern about the proximity and accessibility of the sign and pinecones to the road.
 - Mr. Ewing stated the developer wanted the sign to be visible from both directions.
- Chairwoman Smeal asked for confirmation on the sign's total height of 4 feet.
 - Mr. Ewing confirmed the height was in keeping with the wall at the Firefly Community.
- Commissioner Genet asked, regarding the Eco District as a whole, if future signs would be consistent with those introduced by Empire Communities and whether the use of a highly specific artist could be detrimental to the overall branding and signage concept for the district's future developments.
 - Kim Manning stated that the question would be best posed to Community Development. She noted that each developer has specific conditions at their locations, however, she is unsure if requirements had been established to ensure cohesion across all developments. Currently, Empire Communities is the first developer to initiate an artistic monument for the district.
- Commissioner Patel stated it would be wise to have Community Development set a requirement or aesthetic for future eco-district artistic monuments.
- ❖ Commissioner Barsky moved to approve the Eco District signage and enrichment design submitted by Empire Communities to be installed at the Pinecone Community development with the inclusion of minor modifications as recommended by the Public Art Committee and if the artist incorporates a solution to the concerns of rust for the art structures and signage.
 - Chairwoman Smeal suggested the motion be deferred to allow the applicant to address the concerns of safety and accessibility of the rusting pinecones regarding young residents living in the nearby communities.
- ❖ Commissioner Barsky withdrew the motion.
- ❖ Commissioner Foster moved to defer approval of the Eco District signage and enrichment design submitted by Empire Communities to be installed at the Pinecone Community development until safety concerns for the pinecone structures could be addressed.
 - Commissioner Andrews seconded the motion.
- ❖ The motion to defer was approved unanimously (7-0).

VII. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

- Chairwoman Smeal wished for it to be noted that the Cultural Arts Commission would like to have consistency and a clear, cohesive plan established from the Community Development Department, for Eco-District signage to help guide applications and the Commission's understanding and consideration of future signage.

In addition, it was requested that the Community Development Department staff come before the Cultural Arts Commission to make the commission aware of the number of future developments for the Eco-District and the proposed plan for cohesion.

- Commissioner Foster stated she went to the Breast Cancer Awareness Pink Party and Fashion Show Commissioner Andrews helped facilitate and it was beautiful.
- Commissioner Genet stated there was more engagement in the Windward Community about the Arts Center's upcoming events, so word is getting out.
 - Commissioner Foster asked if there was a way to better promote and market art programs (i.e., an annual mailer) to raise community awareness.
 - Commissioner Genet referenced the Windward Community newsletter in which advertising and promotion of the Arts Center could be included.
 - Kim Manning stated staff could certainly investigate better ways to promote programs and offerings. Currently staff does focus on online calendars as well as activity guides to help promote music, history, art.
 - Commissioner Genet asked if staff would draft a write-up to be included in the Windward Community newsletter if a ½ page space could be reserved.
 - Kim Manning stated staff could certainly draft a piece for the newsletter.
- Commissioner Andrews gave highlights regarding his recent involvement and success of breast cancer awareness events ranging from a fashion show to a Halloween party.
- Commissioner Cookson stated she was pleased with the staff at the Arts Center as she recently rented the facility for her vow renewal for her 35th wedding anniversary. She further that it was a great benefit to Commission members to rent the facility.
- Commissioner Andrews also mentioned that the Indie House collaborated with Fulton County for a "Scent 101" class to make perfumes and recommended the City partner with local vendors for special courses in the same manner.

VIII. REPORTS

- **Cultural Arts Division Monthly Report – November 2022**
 - Kim Manning, Cultural Services Manager of the Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Services Department came forward to present the item.
 - Performance Permit Updates:
 - With the City's new approach to contracts, the City's legal team is still reviewing the permitting application documents. The hope is to have the program ready for roll-out come April (as piloting the program during the winter was not recommended).
 - ArtOber:
 - A proclamation was presented to Arts Alpharetta for their efforts and involvement in developing local art and culture activities and events.
 - Several local artists were recognized for their work on both regional and national levels including publications, the Hudgens Award, and the "Forged In Fire" television competition on the History Channel.
 - Art Crosswalks:

- The Mondrian Crosswalk was installed at the Arts Center. The work was completed on through a “paint by numbers” process to avoid blending and making the mural easier to repaint when it becomes weathered.
 - Commissioner Genet asked how volunteers were chosen.
 - Commission Foster stated volunteers can sign up via Sign-Up Genius.
- The *“Here Comes the Sun”* crosswalk is to be completed at the Wills Park Pool crosswalk.
- Lionheart’s Free Little Art Gallery has been busy! The curator fills it up but cannot keep it stocked! People love the art!
- Music Match 2022-2023:
 - The City was awarded funding from Fulton County through the Fulton County Arts & Cultural Grant. Funding was provided late in the year and must be depleted by February 28, 2023. As a result, the Music Match Program is actively booking to make the most use of the grant funds.
- Arts Center Family Day:
 - The event took place on October 8th and consisted of several art-related activities, music, etc.
 - Baskets were filled with arts supplies and kids filled up goody bags. Staff ran out of the supplies!
 - In addition, a local radio station came and recorded live coverage of the event.
- Upcoming Events:
 - The *Georgia Artists with Disabilities Exhibit* featured in the City Hall Community Room gallery is ending this week.
 - The *All About Pastels Exhibit* at the Alpharetta Arts Center Gallery is also ending this week.
 - *A Christmas Story, the Musical* featured by ACT1 Theater is almost sold out.
 - *A Charlie Brown Christmas* was produced the weekend before and the show was adorable!
 - The Artist’s Holiday Market by Arts Alpharetta is coming up this weekend and will include over fifteen vendors. Two classes are to be offered at the market: a stocking class and a gift making class.
 - The *Color & Light Exhibit* will feature three different artists and the opening reception will include free food and drinks and be followed by holiday music by the KT Collaborative.
 - Every year the Metropolitan Ballet features “The Nutcracker” and it is a beautiful show!

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

- There were no public comments.

X. ADJOURNMENT

- ❖ Chairwoman Smeal asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.
- ❖ Commissioner Barsky offered a motion to adjourn.
- ❖ Commissioner Cookson seconded the motion.
- ❖ The motion was approved unanimously (7-0).
- ❖ With there being no further business to consider or discuss, Chairwoman Smeal adjourned the meeting at 6:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amber O'Dwyer
Administrative Office Coordinator
Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services