



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

**MEETING MINUTES
PUBLIC ART & PLACEMENT ADVISORY BOARD
8TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL
100 N. ANDREWS AVENUE
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33312
JULY 25, 2022 – 12:00 P.M.**

MEMBERS		PRESENT	ABSENT
Sarah Glass, Chair	P	4	0
Martha Steinkamp, Vice Chair	P	3	1
Michelle Howland	A	1	3
Phoenix Marks	P	4	0
Andrew Martineau	P	3	0
Robyn Vegas	P	2	2
Diane Weinbrum	A	1	1

As of this date, there are 7 appointed members to the Board, which means 4 would constitute a quorum.

Staff Present

Leona Osamor, Grants Administrator/Staff Liaison
Carl Williams, Parks and Recreation Deputy Director
Carla Blair, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

Communication to the City Commission

None.

Roll Call

Chair Glass called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m. Roll was called and it was noted a quorum was present.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Chair led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes – 3/22/22 and 5/24/22

Motion made by Ms. Marks, seconded by Vice Chair Steinkamp, to accept both. [The minutes were approved by consent.]

Mr. Williams advised that additional information will be sent to the Board members in the coming weeks from incoming Cultural Affairs Officer Joshua Carden, who will be introduced at the August 2022 meeting.

Mr. Williams explained that today's meeting is intended to be a brainstorming session, and the comments provided by members would be shared with Mr. Carden at the August meeting.

1. Tunnel Top Criteria Ideas and Suggestions

Chair Glass requested suggestions and feedback on this topic from the Board members.

Ms. Marks advised that she had reviewed notes and minutes from previous meetings, recalling that at the January 28, 2021 meeting, Mayor Dean Trantalis had informed the Board that he would like to see "something unique and singular to Fort Lauderdale." He had recommended that when a site is identified, the selected artist should be invited to view the prospective location of a sculpture honoring the late Jim Laird.

Ms. Marks continued that the Mayor had shared a vision for a sculpture plaza or garden within the City. This area would serve to broaden the appeal of the City as an international center and create a sense of place. The Board had voted in favor of Tunnel Top Park as the prospective location.

Ms. Marks noted that this discussion continued at the March 4, 2021 meeting, when a former Board member observed that it would be important to define what should be achieved by the artist. The discussion indicated that the work should be recognizable, attract tourists, and be "photographable and Instagrammable" and iconic, citing Chicago's Bean sculpture as an example. There will also need to be a determination of whether or not the sculpture should stand alone or be integrated into the surrounding space. Other considerations included the artist's national, regional, or local profile, as well as the size of the sculpture or sculptures for visibility.

Ms. Marks recommended that the Board return their focus to the Mayor's request, determining what they envision for the project as well as the next steps necessary to make it happen.

The Board determined that the artwork they are seeking should have the following characteristics:

- Uniqueness
- Specificity to Fort Lauderdale
- Artist should be inspired by the site
- Serving to broaden the appeal of Fort Lauderdale
- High profile
- Creating a sense of place
- Artist should be recognizable
- Artwork should be iconic
- Artwork should either stand alone or be integrated into the surrounding space

- High visibility/monumental artwork

The Board members discussed these attributes as a foundation for decisions about the artwork. Chair Glass also emphasized the importance of considering the donor's wishes for the artwork, recalling that \$5 million was donated for this purpose. Ms. Vegas pointed out that fewer than 5% of public art projects cost over \$2 million. She felt the budget will help attract an appropriate artist to the project.

A universal call to artists was proposed, which would attract individuals of international stature to apply. The Board agreed with this suggestion by consensus. Mr. Williams stated that the call to artists would be provided by the City, with the Board to see its language before it is made public.

Mr. Williams continued that Mr. Carden will most likely draft a scope of work for the project based on the characteristics discussed at today's meeting. He will also be able to provide a new perspective on the process.

The members discussed iconic sculptures and artwork in other cities, including sculpture gardens, and reviewed a number of these online in order to have an idea of what has been done elsewhere. They also briefly discussed what might be considered representative of Fort Lauderdale.

Mr. Martineau suggested providing \$1 million each to five different artists, which could allow for one large conceptual piece. It was noted that it would most likely be difficult to attract multiple artists who could produce a cohesive product. The Board agreed that the selected artist would need to visit the site so their inspiration would be based on Fort Lauderdale, which would be preferable to the Board providing them with possible themes.

Ms. Marks asked if the Board is interested in a single large monumental piece or multiple smaller pieces. It was suggested there may be weight limitations for that site as well as limited space.

Mr. Williams pointed out that parks also need significant upkeep, including landscaping, in order to make them welcoming to visitors. Fort Lauderdale parks may also need amenities such as water fountains and shade structures. Ms. Vegas observed that the artwork itself may incorporate some form of shade. The types of trees and landscaping surrounding the sculpture will also be important considerations. Ms. Marks noted that City arborists or horticulturalists will likely need to have input on this issue.

The Board members reviewed an aerial view of the proposed park site where the sculpture would be placed.

Vice Chair Steinkamp asked if the Board members feel they are at a point where they can discuss preliminary language for a call to artists. It was noted that they have identified several key words and terms that can be used in the call. Mr. Carden is also expected to

provide additional polish due to his experience in this field. The most recent version of the park site would also need to be included in the call to artists. Mr. Martineau added that the artist will need to be provided a timeline for completion of the work.

It was also asked if a portion of the \$5 million budget would be used to cover the artist's transportation to and lodging in the City. Ms. Osamor clarified that the budget includes funding for visits by the artist. A percentage of the funds must also be maintained as a contingency and for ongoing maintenance once the artwork is complete.

Mr. Martineau pointed out that there may be restrictions on the sculpture as well, such as weight or lighting. Ms. Marks recommended that at the next meeting, the Board ask Mr. Carden for input on likely restrictions, which may include kinetic movement/interaction, weight, materials, height, maintenance, pedestrian traffic, and other considerations. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) may have additional restrictions as well. A portion of the park may also need to be closed for safety purposes during the sculpture's installation.

2. New Business / Board Comments

It was determined that a date will be set for the Board's first meeting with Mr. Carden, including additional exploration of some of the bullet points discussed at today's meeting.

Vice Chair Steinkamp advised that the University of Florida has issued excellent calls to artists for public art in the past. Ms. Marks suggested that the Vice Chair may wish to send an example of one such call to Staff prior to the next meeting so the Board will have a clearer view of the call process.

3. Communications to the Commission

None.

4. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Any written public comments made 48 hours prior to the meeting regarding items discussed during the proceedings have been attached hereto.

[Minutes prepared by K. McGuire, Prototype, Inc.]