



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

**MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
PUBLIC ART & PLACEMENT ADVISORY BOARD
FORT LAUDERDALE FIRE STATION
THIRD FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
528 NW 2ND STREET, FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33311
MARCH 18, 2024 – 1:00 P.M.**

<u>MEMBERS</u>	<u>PRESENT</u>	January-December 2024	
		<u>ABSENT</u>	
Sarah Glass, Chair	P	1	0
Martha Steinkamp, Vice Chair	P	1	0
Phoenix Marks	P	1	0
Andrew Martineau (arr. 1:16)	P	1	0
Gregory Reed	A	0	1
Robyn Vegas	P	1	0

As of this date, there are 6 appointed members to the Board, which means 4 would constitute a quorum.

Staff Present

Joshua Carden, Cultural Affairs Officer, Staff Liaison
Susan Grant, Assistant City Manager
Rares Pelrica, Engineering Department
Karen Cruitt, Recording Clerk, Prototype, Inc.

Communication to the City Commission

None,

Roll Call

Chair Glass called the meeting to order at 1:14 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll was called and it was noted a quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes – 12/18/23

Mr. Carden explained that due to an administrative error, the December 18, 2023 meetings must be re-approved.

Motion made by Chair Glass, seconded by Vice Chair Steinkamp, to approve the minutes for December. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

1. Welcome

2. River Oaks Mural

Mr. Martineau arrived at 1:16 p.m.

Mr. Carden explained that the Board is asked to retroactively approve the River Oaks mural and recommend its acceptance to the City Commission. Once approval is granted, the City's Public Works Department can begin the permitting process. The mural did not follow the rules and procedures in place, which include approval by both the Board and the City Commission prior to execution. Once the mural is approved by the Commission, it will become part of the City's public art collection.

Mr. Carden further clarified that the cost of paint for the mural was slightly over \$200. The paint is acrylic, which is typically not suitable for Florida's climate and conditions. The mural will be sealed to minimize fading as much as possible, but some chipping and flaking is expected.

Vice Chair Steinkamp asked if there is any funding involved with the mural. Mr. Carden replied that the Board has not funded the project.

Ted Inserra, president of the River Oaks Civic Association, stated that the mural has been sealed and funding is available for its maintenance. He noted that the Civic Association will have this funding as long as they continue to have control over the mural. Mr. Inserra observed that the mural was created by a professional artist with knowledge of the materials necessary to paint outdoor concrete walls.

Mr. Carden clarified that he had looked up the paint used on the mural and noted that it is not color-fast. Mr. Inserra added that the artist had used a clear acrylic coating.

Mr. Inserra continued that the City had had no plans to decorate the wall in question, and the neighborhood did not have a clear answer on why the wall was erected. The Civic Association had invested in the mural with the intent of beautifying the neighborhood.

Rares Pelrica, representing the City's Engineering Department, stated that the wall is a permanent feature and a major component of the City's drainage system, as several pump stations discharge into the canal behind the wall.

Mr. Carden explained that his concern was with the logistics of the mural, as it had not followed the City's process and may not have protected the adjacent waterway from runoff during the painting process. Mr. Inserra stated that there is another wall across the street that the Civic Association plans to paint.

Ms. Marks asked if this meant the Civic Association intended to bypass the City's process a second time. Mr. Inserra acknowledged that while the process typically involves a call to artists, who then submit renderings to the Board. He asserted that the Civic Association wants to choose the design for the second wall and wants to use the same artist as well.

Ms. Marks asked if the Civic Association would be interested in donating funds toward the mural's maintenance while selecting the artist and design. This would not involve a call to artists. She asked how much money the Civic Association intends to spend toward a second mural. It was estimated that this cost would be approximately \$5000.

Mr. Carden advised that insurance is another consideration, as the City had not insured the artist when she painted the first mural on public property. He also noted that the work is subject to the Visual Artists' Rights Act, which means if the artwork is damaged, the City cannot legally repair it without the artist's permission. At present, the City does not have any sort of memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the artist, which places the City in a difficult position for the future.

Mr. Inserra stated that he did not take issue with the City's process as long as the same artist can create the second mural. Mr. Carden assured him that the neighborhood will have significant input on the process, and that additional funds can be made available through that process. The Board allows civic associations and communities to give input on what will be seen in their neighborhoods.

Assistant City Manager Susan Grant asked if the \$5000 mentioned earlier is intended to cover costs for both sides of the wall. Mr. Carden replied that the \$5000 would be used toward materials, with the intent that the artist will go back and add to the existing mural using color-fast paints and appropriate sealant. The opening of the canal would be covered to prevent any paint runoff, and permitting fees and insurance would be nominal. He confirmed that the amount would cover both sides of the wall. Ongoing maintenance would require separate additional funds.

Bill Brown, president of the Central Beach Alliance (CBA), commended the City and the Board for developing a process for public art.

Gaylord Wood, Jr., resident, requested clarification of whether a portion of the canal is owned by the City or by a nearby boatyard. Mr. Carden explained that the canal is outside the purview of the Board, which oversees the public art process only. The Board's governing Ordinance provides them with the authority to recommend public art projects to the City Commission, but not to approve or deny on their own. The Board also has the authority to recommend the means by which artwork and placements may be obtained, including donations, designs, and grant applications. Had the mural gone through the City's process, the Board would have worked with Mr. Inserra and the River Oaks community on the project. He emphasized that the Board's intent is not to remove any work: their intent is to retroactively correct the situation with the mural.

Mr. Carden recalled that he had met Mr. Inserra on the site of the existing mural and expressed his intent to help the Civic Association move that artwork through the City's process. Mr. Inserra reiterated that the Civic Association's intent is to ensure they have control over what will go on the other wall.

Ms. Vegas advised that the Board can recommend an appropriate anti-graffiti and weather-protective coating for the wall.

Mr. Carden suggested that the Board make a motion to recommend the City Commission accept the mural with the understanding that the River Oaks Civic Association will maintain it and will also work with Staff and the Board to select appropriate materials for the second mural.

Mr. Carden further clarified that the Civic Association may choose to put the City on their insurance, which should not cost any additional money. If the artist does not currently have insurance, it may cost a few hundred dollars to secure insurance. If the Civic Association purchases the approved materials for the second wall, they would only be paying the permit fees for the mural.

Motion made by Ms. Marks, seconded by Ms. Vegas, to accept the donation of this mural from the River Oaks Homeowners' Association for the first wall, and the second wall to be retroactively permitted and approved, with the caveat that all future maintenance will be the responsibility of the HOA. [The **motion** was approved by consent.]

Elroy Green, resident, asked who would be responsible for repairing the wall if it was physically damaged. Ms. Grant replied that this would be the City's responsibility.

The following Items were taken out of order on the Agenda.

5. Riverwalk Garage Temporary Public Art Project

Mr. Carden stated that artist Christian Feneck approached the City to propose a temporary art project on the side of the Riverwalk garage. The work will be in place for approximately three weeks. No permitting is necessary, and the artwork will not have to be approved by the City Commission. Panels will be attached to the existing fence structure, and the work will be insured by Florida Atlantic University (FAU). There is no cost to the City.

6. Marc Quinn's *Broken Sublime* installation update

Mr. Carden continued that the City has received approval from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), the Department of Transportation and Mobility, and the Parks and Recreation Department to move forward with this installation. Final installation is planned for Wednesday, March 27, 2024.

4. Holiday Park Mural – Artist Selection

The Board members discussed several artists who had responded to the call for artists for this project. Mr. Carden explained that the top three artists will receive a \$1000 honorarium and will present their conceptual designs to the Board at the April 2024 meeting. The members will select an artist at that meeting.

The top three selections were Allison Dunavant, Ernesto Maranje, and Amanda Newman, with EVOCA1 chosen as a backup if any of the top three withdraw from consideration. Mr. Carden concluded that the artists will be asked to present a full conceptual rendering, a proposed schedule, and a proposed budget at the April meeting.

3. Lifeguard Towers – Artist Selection

The Board members discussed the artists who responded to the call for artists for the lifeguard tower designs. Their top three selections were Emo (Eddie Mendieta), Timothy Smith, and Danny Doya, with Ivan Roque chosen as backup.

7. New Business / Board Comments

None.

8. Communications to the Commission

None.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 2:51 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.]