



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
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PUBLIC ART & PLACEMAKING ADVISORY BOARD
TOWER 101, SUITE 1100
101 NE 3RD AVENUE, FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33301
SEPTEMBER 16, 2024 – 1:00 P.M.

<u>MEMBERS</u>	<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>January-December 2024</u>	
		<u>ABSENT</u>	
Sarah Glass, Chair	P	5	0
Martha Steinkamp, Vice Chair	P	4	1
Phoenix Marks (arr. 1:11)	P	5	0
Elisabeth Wennberg	P	4	0

As of this date, there are 4 appointed members to the Board, which means 3 would constitute a quorum.

Staff Present

Joshua Carden, Cultural Affairs Officer, Staff Liaison
K. Cruitt, Recording Clerk, Prototype, Inc.

Communication to the City Commission

None.

Roll Call

Chair Glass called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m. Roll was called and it was noted a quorum was not yet present.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The following Item was taken out of order on the Agenda.

1. Welcome

Vice Chair Steinkamp requested an update on Carlos Luna’s *Horse*. Mr. Carden explained that at the August 19, 2024 meeting, the Board recommended placing the work in Esplanade Park. The City Commission will vote on provide final approval of the sculpture and its location on October 29, 2024.

Mr. Carden continued that the original base of the sculpture had been too large and expensive. Bonnie Barnett, representing the Laird Estate, proposed that a small fence and flowers be installed around the base of the work to discourage climbing or sleeping on the sculpture. Mr. Carden added that the City will need to work with an approved general contractor on the pedestal and base.

Ms. Marks arrived at 1:11 p.m.

Approval of Minutes – 8/19/24

Motion made by Ms. Marks, seconded by Vice Chair Steinkamp, to accept them. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

Mr. Carden reported that former member Robyn Vegas has resigned from the Board and the seat from City Commission District 3 is now open. He encouraged the members to reach out to colleagues who may be interested in joining the Board.

2. Laird Estate Discussion with Bonnie Barnett

Ms. Marks explained that the Board members had questions regarding the selection process for artwork chosen by the Laird Estate. She recalled that the Mayor had attended the Board's first meeting and spoken in favor of selecting iconic artworks that would encourage people to visit Fort Lauderdale to see them.

Ms. Barnett advised that the Laird Estate had purchased the *Horse* sculpture because the benefactor, James Winder Laird, had a great love of horses. The Estate had wished this to be reflected in the purchased artworks.

Ms. Marks observed that none of the works selected thus far appeared to be the type of monumental work that would encourage visitors to the City, which had been the Mayor's recommendation. She concluded that the Board would like to work with Ms. Barnett and the Laird Estate to determine what is considered iconic.

Ms. Marks explained that when items are brought before the Board in the current process, the result is that the Board acts as "a rubber stamp," which she did not believe was its role. Ms. Barnett replied that the works are ultimately funded by the Laird Estate and given as gifts to the City, which she concluded was her directive.

Vice Chair Steinkamp commented that the selection process is very different from the process she felt the Board is supposed to follow. She emphasized the Board's desire for greater participation in the selection process. Ms. Barnett replied that she is not involved in the development of criteria by the Board and does not have a role in working with the City.

Mr. Carden advised that all parties should understand the money provided to the City for artwork has been donated by the Laird Estate, which means it does not necessarily follow the provisions of City's Public Art Ordinance; however, he did not feel the Estate's and the City's wishes were mutually exclusive.

Ms. Barnett advised that while she appreciates tourism related to artwork, that was not part of her directive from the Laird Estate. She added that another issue is whether or not selected works can pass inspection for placement by the City. She described some of the difficulties that have slowed the process of providing artwork, including shipping, installation, lighting, and other considerations.

Chair Glass asked how the Board could be involved with the Laird Estate in selecting artwork for purchase with the Estate funds that remain. She suggested that the Laird Estate could bring a selection of sculptures to the Board for consideration. Ms. Barnett replied that she had no authorization to make changes to the process.

Chair Glass observed that the decision-making process appears to have changed significantly over time, and requested greater transparency related to these changes so the Board would be aware of them. She recalled an earlier meeting at which the Board met with Fort Lauderdale's Mayor as well as with a representative of the Laird Estate and concluded that that meeting was not consistent with the issues the Board is talking about today.

Mr. Carden advised that the Board itself is an advisory body, which means it is empowered to make recommendations to the City Commission. It does not have further authority. If the Board does not recommend the selection of a piece proposed by the Laird Estate, they may vote to recommend denial to the City Commission.

Ms. Marks stated again that the artworks brought before the Board should be "iconic pieces" as proposed by the Mayor during his discussion with the Board members. She expressed concern that some of the pieces brought forward by the Estate, such as the FTL sculpture, do not appear to her to be the kind of iconic work that will attract visitors to the City. Chair Glass added that her concern is that the Board is not fulfilling the integrity of what she believed they were asked to do for the City in terms of supporting the arts. Ms. Barnett reiterated that this is not an issue on which she could provide an answer.

Mr. Carden encouraged the Board members to reach out to the City Commissioners who appointed them and request passage of the new Public Art Ordinance. He pointed out that the Ordinance includes guidelines and provisions regarding the selection of public art.

Ms. Marks asked if the Board can request that this issue be brought to the City Commission. It was noted that the Board may send a communication to the City Commission, but it was also recommended that they may want to wait until a new City Commission has been seated.

Ms. Wennberg asked for Ms. Barnett's recommendation on further donated artworks. Ms. Barnett reiterated that she was not certain how much funding remains available by the Laird Estate. Ms. Wennberg also asked if there was a possibility the Board could provide input on the Estate's next proposed piece. Ms. Barnett replied that she would reach out to the Estate's attorney to determine how much funding remains.

Vice Chair Steinkamp requested a breakdown of the Laird Estate's funds, including what has been spent, what remains, and how the funds are used. This would show the Board what kind of funding is still available for use on public art. Ms. Barnett stated again that she would speak to the Estate's attorney.

Mr. Carden advised that he would send the Estate's attorney a list of expenditures thus far. He added that not all of the figures that will be provided will be exact, as not all of the pieces have been installed thus far and those costs have not been finalized. Vice Chair Steinkamp confirmed that she understood it would be an estimate.

3. Project Updates

- **Dean Davis Mural at Fire Station #49 – Complete**

Mr. Carden noted that this mural was unveiled on September 11, 2024, with first responders, including the City's Police and Fire Chiefs, present.

4. New Business / Board Comments

Mr. Carden advised that the City is still working on a Community Aesthetic Features Agreement between the City's legal team and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) in relation to the FTL sculpture. A construction bond is required in the event the piece may need to be removed. He has met with the City's general contractor to seek a quote for this estimated cost, which would determine the bond amount.

Mr. Carden provided an update on artist Tim Smith, who is currently being hosted by the W Hotel during his stay in Fort Lauderdale. His lifeguard tower project will be presented to the City Commission for approval at their October 8, 2024 meeting. He also hopes to request approval for artists Pepe Gaka and Ernesto Maranje on the same Commission Agenda.

The end date for the pump station mural at Peter Feldman Park has been extended due to construction needs. Mr. Carden has also met with the Flagler Village Civic Association to finalize renderings of that project so it can be presented at the October 8 City Commission meeting.

A new City Attorney has been assigned to the Public Art program and has requested that all agreements be brought to him up front, along with their accompanying Commission items, before they go to the Commission for approval.

Ms. Marks asked if the new City Attorney will need to review the guidelines the Board had discussed in the past. She suggested that if the Board began this process now, there may be time to bring it before the new City Commission after November 2024. Mr. Carden again encouraged the Board members to reach out to their City Commissioners and urge them to prioritize the City's new Public Arts Ordinance, which has been drafted with those guidelines.

It was requested that Mr. Carden send the members a draft of the proposed Ordinance. Mr. Carden agreed, adding that the members should express the concerns they shared at today's meeting in their own words.

Vice Chair Steinkamp asked if the Board should send a communication to the City Commission in addition to reaching out to their individual Commissioners. It was determined that the Board members would review the draft Ordinance sent to them by Mr. Carden and discuss a communication to the Commission as a formal Agenda Item at their next meeting.

The Board briefly discussed rescheduling or cancelling their November 18, 2024 meeting.

Motion made by Chair Glass to not have the meeting on November 18. [The **motion** died for lack of second.]

5. Communications to the Commission

None.

6. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 2:25 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.]