

SMYRNA PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE

Minutes - Final



Smyrna Community Center
Oak Room
1250 Powder Springs Street
Smyrna, GA 30080

Rickey N. Oglesby, Jr, Council Member/Chair
Vanya Foote, Committee Member
Robert Harrison, Committee Member
Charles Rhome, Committee Member
Burke Scott, Committee Member
Tracy Styf, Committee Member
Imani Thomas, Committee Member
Anna Talarico, Designing Local Consultant

City Attorney Scott Cochran
City Administrator Joseph Bennett
City Clerk Heather K. Peacon-Corn

August 29, 2024
11:30 AM

1. Roll Call

Present: 5 – Councilmember/Chair Rickey N. Oglesby, Jr., Committee Member Robert Harrison, Committee Member Charles Rhome, Committee Member Burke Scott, Committee Member Imani Thomas

Also Present: 1 – Anna Talarico

Absent: 2 – Committee Member Vanya Foote, Committee Member Tracy Styf

Staff: 4 – Richard Garland, Carson Haynie, Andrea Worthy, Ashley Youmans

2. Call to Order

The August 29, 2024 Smyrna Public Art Committee held at the Smyrna Community Center in the Oak Room was called to order at 11:40 AM.

3. Chairperson Instruction and Comment

Chairperson Rickey N. Oglesby, Jr. welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for being a part of the new public art committee.

4. Formal Business

A. 2024-251 Public Art Committee Member introductions

Committee members and staff gave introductions. Anna Talarico, the city's public art consultant with Designing Local, also introduced herself. Her role is to advise the city on art policies and best practices and will give the committee tools to identifying public art opportunities and selecting artwork.

B. 2024-253 Orientation to Public Art Committee roles and responsibilities

Anna Talarico explained that the city adopted a revised Public Art Policy on August 12, 2024 that gives committee members and staff tools for implementing public art. Ms. Talarico explained the expectations of committee members with a 'Smyrna Public Art Committee Briefing' handout. She also explained the sections of the new policy including collection management, acquisition, use of funds, public art program update, and mural

guidelines. Ms. Talarico explained that this committee makes the decisions, and though she has been brought in to be a consultant and help with processes and equip the committee with options and information, she does not vote or make decisions for this committee or the city. The selection process is measuring artists' proposal with the project parameters and goal and coming to a consensus as a group where those goals intersect. Committee members asked about meeting frequency and virtual options, and Ashley Youmans, Special Projects Manager, explained that the meetings are public and were planned for the last Thursday of each month around lunchtime. The meetings would need to be in person with a quorum of members in attendance.

C. 2024-255 Discussion of Smyrna's public art history and context

Anna Talarico and Ashley Youmans began with a presentation on Smyrna's public art history. Ashley Youmans explained the role of the previous Arts & Culture Task Force, revisions to the Public Art Policy, and what is in the city's public art collection. She mentioned that the ARTery concept of bringing public art projects from Brawner Hall to the Belmont Shopping Center was a focus of the task force. She explained that the city is now focusing on public art implementation and connecting resources across city departments. The city issued an RFP for public implementation services which was awarded to Designing Local. Anna Talarico explained that her recommendations will look at implementing both the ARTery suggestions along with additional public art projects across the city.

D. 2024-257 Presentation of options for Public Art work plan through the end of FY 2025

Anna Talarico explained that the goal of this meeting is to identify immediate implementation ideas and to get oriented with art options. Long-term ideas will be integrated into a public art work plan. Anna presented the following art ideas:

1. Open Air Mural Studio
2. New Utility Box Opportunities
3. Painted Fire Hydrants
4. Crosswalk Murals
5. Temporary Interactive Experience
6. Juried Art Exhibition
7. Temporary Textile Installation
8. Temporary Sculpture Program

The committee discussed all options and overall thought that the immediate projects to undertake in the next three to four months should be crosswalks in the downtown area near City Hall and the Smyrna Market Village, followed by fire hydrants along Atlanta Road and utility boxes across the city. Potential options for utility boxes were Atlanta Road, Spring Road, and S. Cobb Drive at the intersection of East-West Connector. Ashley Youmans said she can work with staff to confirm what locations are city-owned and what is feasible. Richard Garland, Parks & Recreation Dir/Interim Asst. City Administrator, asked about sponsorship of utility boxes to offset costs. It was determined that anything like that would need to be in compliance with the city's sign ordinance.

Committee Member Burke Scott made a motion to approve the committee's public art implementation priorities as follows: 1-2 crosswalks in downtown, utility box murals, and painted fire hydrants; seconded by Committee Member Imani Thomas.

The motion to approve carried with the following vote:

Aye: 5 – City Council Liaison Oglesby, Committee Member Harrison, Committee Member Rhome, Committee Member Scott, Committee Member Thomas
Nay: 0 – None
Absent: 2 – Committee Member Foote, Committee Member Styf

5. Other Business / Staff Comment

6. Adjournment

The August 29, 2024 Smyrna Public Art Committee was adjourned at 1:24 PM.

Facilities are provided throughout City Hall for the convenience of persons with disabilities.

THIS MEETING WAS PROPERLY NOTICED AND POSTED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NOTICING STANDARDS AS OUTLINED IN O.C.G.A. 50-14-3:
The City of Smyrna website – www.smyrnaga.gov
City Hall, 2800 King Street SE, Notice Boards