

CITY OF STURGEON BAY
LOCAL ARTS BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, March 9, 2022
Council Chambers, City Hall, 421 Michigan Street
8:30 A.M.

A meeting of the Local Arts Board was called to order at 8:30 A.M., by Chairperson/Ald. Helen Bacon in Council Chambers, City Hall, 421 Michigan Street.

Roll Call: Members present were Ald. Helen Bacon, Claire Morkin, Margaret Lockwood and melaniejane. Stephanie Trenchard was excused. Also present were Director of Municipal Services Mike Barker, Administrative Assistant Suzanne Miller and Municipal Services Secretary Patty Quinn. City Administrator Josh VanLieshout joined the meeting at 8:40 A.M., leaving at 9:35 A.M.

Adoption of the Agenda: Moved by Ms. Morkin and seconded by Ms. melaniejane to adopt the agenda.

1. Roll Call
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Review of Minutes from February 9, 2022
4. Chair's report
5. Public comment on agenda items
6. Open Forum for Creative Ideas
7. Introduction to Miller Art Center
8. Discussion on paying stipends to artists
9. Adjourn

All in favor. Carried.

Review of Minutes from February 9, 2022: No comments.

Chair's report: An update was given on the recent press release for the Call for Creative Ideas. Thanks to Ms. melaniejane for writing it and submitting it.

More details were provided on the Wisconsin Sea Grant mural that was recently approved by the City's Finance committee. The City is waiting for a statewide call to artists and a formal agreement. The project will also be required to come before the City's Local Arts Board and the Joint Parks and Recreation Committee/Board as the art will be on public property.

Public comment on agenda items: No comments.

Open Forum for Creative Ideas: Present and speaking were the following:

Beth Lokken of 107 S. 4th Avenue. Beth presented a poster of a past chalking event that will be renamed to "Chalk the Door" in 2022 that will be held in the last of week of July, and the theme will be "Inland Seas". All the Door County Library locations will be participating in an effort to expand the event beyond the City. Beth asked for help from the board in promoting it.

Tori Martinez of 301 S. Hudson Avenue is the daughter of the founder of the Art Garage in Green Bay. She has many ideas for creativity for the City and likes getting the community involved.

Cathy Grier of 153 S. 3rd Avenue brought forward the idea of working with high school students, their art teachers and the community to decorate the chain link fence that is currently surrounding the Butch's Bar site in an effort to provide emotional support to those passing by. It was mentioned that the fence is temporary and was erected by the insurance company for the duration of their investigation, and may come down soon. Decorating the fence with art is something that can be organized quickly and people in the room offered to donate money and art supplies. Cathy offered to follow up with the insurance adjuster on the exact plan for the fence and to call the property owners. She is also willing to come back to the next meeting to provide an update.

Hans Christian of 330 N. 3rd Avenue would like to see the board get involved with the 3rd Avenue beautification project. He spoke on spots for visual arts in that area that he identified and the possibilities for fabricated metal art and sites for murals. Hans also spoke on the Red Oak Winery building and he would like to see improvements. Various questions were asked by the board and the chair will be reaching out to the shipyard representative to invite them to come to the next meeting to discuss the beautification plans for this year and going forward.

Jacob Janssen of 239 N. 3rd Ave., is the new Artistic Director at TAP, and is interested in developing an audio experience with a "walking" play accessible on a smart phone. It would focus on the people, history and the many stories surrounding 3rd Avenue and the City. The hardest aspects of such a project is the funding and all the signage needed but grant money may be available to help with these. Jacob will be introduced to several people in the City already spending time on researching 3rd Avenue businesses and their history. He also wants to work with the Miller Art Center, Destination Sturgeon Bay and the Maritime Museum in developing and promoting this project.

Meghan Hanson of 41 W. Maple Street indicated that she has a good understanding of local art but would like the City to expand and look more to the future by talking to artists on a national basis and not just statewide. She described several city-wide art projects that she experienced when living in another state. There were art campuses and she will forward more information on those to the board. Also, she spoke about art shanties – small galleries that attracted many visitors.

Claire Erickson of 41 S. 3rd Avenue is a mural artist. She presented details of a mural event she was involved with in Green Bay, on buildings off of Broadway Avenue, that was funded through grants. Claire would like to see the City do something similar and she offered to take the lead on this if the board could help to support and promote it. The question was raised on any City ordinances on murals but currently, there aren't any. Businesses have been stepping forward wanting murals on their buildings and a list will be started on those reaching out. Claire provided details on the mural event in Green Bay such as how artists got chosen to be a part of the event.

Tony Menzer of 311 Pennsylvania Street is an artist who worked with clay for many years. He described a particular clay project where anyone that wants to participate takes a wet chunk of clay and creates their "story" on it. All the clay bricks are fired in a kiln and are then fashioned to make a mural for display in places such as nursing homes, hospitals, schools or just about anywhere. Tony will call an artist that he has worked with in the past to get more details.

Marie Kimball of 4400 Hwy. 57 is the Miller Art Center outreach coordinator. She feels a mural festival should take place in Sturgeon Bay and suggested hosting a forum to pursue this which would be a way to move forward without the need for funding. Ongoing festivals would provide urban living transformation since the murals would be painted over year to year and would help artists with promotion and exposure.

Introduction to Miller Art Center: As the board looks to collaborate with organizations within the City, Beth Meissner-Gigstead, Executive Director at the Miller Art Center, spoke about its history and its founders. Their current collection is mainly Wisconsin artists with about 1,500 pieces. Only a small

percentage of those are now being displayed because there's a great need to expand. The MAC is looking for space. There haven't been any updates since 1975 when the Miller was originally built. They have a desire to be a bigger part of the community and to attracting younger people. They have existing concept drawings for developing a cultural center. The current ownership of the library/Miller building was explained and that the City and County own 50/50. The Miller is currently working on discussing its future with the City.

Discussion on paying stipends to artists: This agenda item was tabled as Administrator VanLieshout was needed in a different meeting.

Possible Items for next month's agenda:

- Discussion on budgeting and paying stipends to artists
- Discussion on the 3rd Avenue beautification project with Fincantieri Shipbuilding Company
- Discussion on planning a possible mural event/festival
- Discussion and update with Cathy Grier regarding Butch's Bar fencing
- Rescheduling the June 8th meeting

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, April 20, 2022 @ 8:30 A.M. – Council Chambers, City Hall.

Motion to adjourn by Ms. melaniejane and seconded by Ms. Morkin. All in favor. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:24 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia S. Quinn
Municipal Services Secretary