



Action Agenda

Public Art Committee
July 7, 2014
7:00 P.M.

The Fayette County Public Art Committee met in an Official Meeting on July 7, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Public Meeting Room of the Fayette County Administrative Complex, 140 Stonewall Avenue, Fayetteville, Georgia.

Committee Members Present:

Steve Brown, Chairman
Michelle Anderson
Charlie Cave
Carolyn Cruse
Kate Hawkins
Vicki Turner

Staff Present:

Floyd L. Jones, County Clerk
Phil Mallon, Director of Public Works
Anthony Ballard, Buildings and Grounds

1. Call the meeting to order

Chairman Brown called the July 7, 2014 Public Arts Committee meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. He then asked each person in attendance to introduce themselves and tell a little about their interest as it relates to public art.

2. Approval of the April 13, 2014 Meeting Minutes

There was not a sufficient number of committee members to approve the April 13, 2014 Public Art Committee minutes. No vote was held on this matter.

3. Committee members to present researched information and ideas from the list provided

Chairman Brown gave an informal, 18-page PowerPoint presentation to the committee and the committee spoke about each of the pictures and ideas shown in the presentation.

Mrs. Turner stated that the first and second slides were pictures of a butterfly close to Hartsfield-Jackson Airport. She said it caught her attention since it was so colorful. She suggested that the county should come up with a theme; similar to how the area where the picture was taken had a theme around butterflies. Ms. Anderson agreed that it would be a good idea to have a theme for the county.

The third slide had a picture of a drug store with a large painting on the side. Chairman Brown stated it had a real touch of Americana, and he spoke about similar paintings in Griffin, Georgia, and he said those paintings incorporate humor. He mentioned that there was a building in Peachtree City that he obtained permission to add a mural to it. He said the building that he referred to was the Huntington Building. He said on the far side of the building is a cinder-block wall and that is where the mosaic would be. He stated that approximately 30,000 people a day go by the wall, and that since a mosaic is so far out of the box from what the traditional Southern town is used to that it could be interesting.

Chairman Brown said the fourth slide was a picture of the Crosstown Water Treatment Facility in Peachtree City. He said it is a county-owned facility and is one of two water treatment plants. He said it is the location where sediments are taken out of water and that the structure was essentially one of several large pools; some of which are visible from the street and others are visible once someone is inside the complex. He suggested that painting a water scene, perhaps with fish, would be neat along the side of the treatment pool. He pointed out that the side of the pool essentially was one large canvas.

Chairman Brown then spoke about a red box, located at the entrance to the Fayette County Administrative Complex, and pictured on slides five and six. He said he once asked about this box and was told that it looks better than it did last time. Someone asked if the box was intended to look like an antique, and the answer was that it was not "antiquing" by a long shot. Chairman Brown said the box was the first thing a person would see as they come to the Tax Commissioner's office, and that he did not want a bland fix but something with bursting color. Ms. Hawkins said she has painted mailboxes and she has done a few where that could incorporate a famous painting. Several discussions ensued with ideas on how to improve the box. Mr. Cave pointed out that the box belongs to Tax Commissioner George Wingo, and he asked for the Tax Commissioners Office to come up with ideas on how to decorate the box. He said it could be a contest within the department. The committee agreed that it would come up with about six or seven proposals and let the Tax Commissioners Office choose their favorite proposal. Ms. Anderson suggested that the county should bring in high school students on this project since this is a central location in the county. She stated that kids are so creative. Chairman Brown said this project is a small-scale project, but that it should not be the "ugly" first thing that is seen but the "fascinating" first thing that is seen. He added that the high school kids should be utilized for the Water Treatment Plant project, and he asked the committee to come up with ideas for the "poor red box." Ms. Anderson stated that immediate area around the box needed landscaping and suggested that the Cooperative Extension Service could possibly work on landscaping the area. Chairman Brown replied that Cooperative Extension Services did not do county landscaping since they tend to maintain and help citizens, and since it comprises a much older group of people. It was suggested that the box could have a "starry night" theme or an animal theme. Chairman Brown asked Ms. Hawkins to look into bettering the red box. Chairman Brown stated that the new mantra for the County is "First Impressions Make a Difference" and that everything needed to look good, professional, and clean.

Ms. Hawkins said she drove to Chattanooga, Tennessee over the weekend and observed that the city has an underlying theme; although it does not have one pressing image. She said the images are starting to pop up throughout Chattanooga, and that the box should stay with the theme of Fayette County. Chairman Brown explained that Fayette County's jurisdiction is essentially the unincorporated part of Fayette County and that the municipalities within the county may not go with county's overall theme. He asked the committee to keep that in mind as these discussions continue. He said he wanted to keep the theme, but he could not guarantee that the municipalities would stay with the theme.

Chairman Brown spoke about the picture of a fire hydrant on slide seven. He explained that there was a method to the madness of the fire hydrant. He said the number of the fire hydrant was "82" so that it could

be catalogued properly. He said the color of the cap of the fire hydrant denotes the pressure of the fire hydrant. He said this method denotes everything that is needed to be known for the fire hydrant, but that it is a good idea for fire hydrants. He said the county has four or five different kinds of hydrants so the hydrants would have to be altered, but he suggested that the committee could come up with templates for the fire hydrants.

Chairman Brown then spoke about slides eight, nine, and ten. He explained that they pictured the Fayette County Finance Department. He stated that many people go in and out of the Finance Department and that there is a very narrow space between the entrance of the department to the front wall. He said people have to buy licenses or conduct other business, and that when they come into the compressed area they are walking into the ugly, light-blue area that so common throughout the County's offices. He said he refers to the color as "institutional power blue" and that it just "kills me." Mr. Mallon replied that many departments are going toward having security walls similar to the Finance Department. He said it was a terrible feeling walking into such a compressed area. Chairman Brown said he could not take a good picture of the area since the area is so tight. He asked the committee to imagine a sterile looking wall. He said the area looks so sterile with gray counter tops and a powder blue wall. He said the only thing that is even remotely close to artistic quality are small pictures in brass frames. He said this has just been there forever and that is the way it has always been. Mr. Ballard stressed that there were currently work orders to enclose the departments with security walls. Chairman Brown said it was like they were trying to take the bank teller's approach, but that it was "ugly as sin." He said the entire wall is visible from the parking lot, and he suggested opening up the area by adding paint to the wall. He said the paint should exude that the County is a bright, cheerful place and should not send the message that "you've entered the dungeon zone." He summarized that painting the wall would be easy and it would make a difference. There was some discussion about how many of the departments are becoming safety conscience, and that the additional features would have to be considered. Chairman Brown said he appreciated the security features, but that the features did not have to be ugly. He suggested that these fixes were small fixes, but that they could go to changing the attitude of county employees as well. He told the committee that he painted his office the first day he came into office, and he wondered how employees could endure working in the institutional power blue environments.

Chairman Brown transitioned to Ms. Stephanie Coulibay's recommendations as pictured in slides eleven through sixteen.

The committee spoke about how to improve the middle of the roundabout which is located at the intersection of Lee's Mill Road and Veteran's Parkway; pictured on slide twelve. It was suggested that this roundabout would look better than Fayetteville's roundabout. Chairman Brown said the initial plan was for landscaping, but that he suggested to Mr. Mallon that something artsy could be done in the middle of the landscape. It was estimated that the inner diameter of the roundabout was 86-feet. He suggested that the tree samples could be taken out of the roundabout and that low shrubs and plants could be added, and then something could be added that would "erupt" from the roundabout. Ms. Hawkins suggested that Rich could be consulted and that his sculptures are recognized around the world, and that he could be the best candidate for the sculpture. Chairman Brown suggested that the work could be prohibitively expensive. Ms. Hawkins suggested that Rich might be willing to do work for relatively no cost on behalf of the County.

Chairman Brown spoke about the pictures on slide thirteen, and he said something like the horse sculpture could be added to the roundabout. He suggested that shrubbery could be cut uneven so that it gave the impression that the sculptures were eating the shrubbery. He said he wanted something that would come out of the center of the roundabout so that people would notice the art. Mr. Cave said that he personally

would look at that roundabout and he would question "Who thought of that." He said he would think that the horse sculptures were awful. He said he would be embarrassed for the horse sculptures to be in the roundabout. Ms. Anderson stated that there was a great piece of artwork along Dividend Court that a German sculpture made. Chairman Brown responded to Mr. Cave's comments saying that sometimes art provokes people to talk, and he reminded everyone that these are all suggestions. Ms. Cruse stated she did not want something that would cause people to take their eyes off of the road. Chairman Brown replied that the purpose of the roundabout was to slow down people. Ms. Cruse replied that she did not want there to be a distraction. Chairman Brown stated that he has seen a number of roundabouts and that many have art and others have landscaping. It was agreed that there was a lot that could be done with roundabouts. Mr. Mallon said he did not know that the roundabout was on the committee's radar but that the county was ready for landscaping. He suggested that he wanted to bring stability to the roundabout, but that it would still have a 25-foot radius that could be worked with. Chairman Brown agreed that the landscaping could begin, but he asked that the inner-core be left available for something artistic to be added.

Ms. Hawkins asked what type of budget was available for these initiatives. Chairman Brown replied that he was looking at this from the perspective of being as economical as possible since there is no art budget for the county. He suggested that if local people could be located who would be willing to work with the county on some matters then maybe there could be some ability, but that this would have to be economical. He suggested that the potential budget would be closer to \$20,000.00. He stated that there were home-grown artists in Fayette County and he was willing to give them an ability to provide their work to the county.

Ms. Anderson stated that the City of Roswell has a lot of art and that she attends a workshop on how they obtained their art. She asked if the County had a grant writer for this initiative. Chairman Brown replied that the County does not have a dedicated grant writer, but that certain departments really go after grants. He suggested that the County would not get in the way if someone wanted to pursue grants on behalf of Fayette County. Mr. Mallon stated that the challenge faced by staff is becoming aware of potential grants. He said that these types of grants are in a different universe than most people employed with the County live in. Chairman Brown said one way the county wins grants is because there is someone who knows how to speak the language that wins grants. He said staff was likely not inclined to pursue or win grants of this kind. Ms. Anderson asked, if calls were made seeking grants, could the caller say they are calling on behalf of Fayette County. Chairman Brown replied "absolutely." Ms. Anderson asked if the county would be good with the committee going after big industries for money.

Chairman Brown stated that Heritage Park was in bad shape and something needed to be done to resuscitate the fountain. He spoke about the ceramic mosaic pieces pictured on slide fifteen. He said he was worried about working at Heritage Park since it is a historical memorial for war veterans who died. He pointed out that there needed to be sensitivity to using bright colors, and that whatever is done should be field tested first. He said he did not want to enrage the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion on this matter, and that community involvement is fostered on this project. He said the work needed to be field tested. He stated that he loved the pictured designs and that they would work on nearly everything except for Heritage Fountain. Mr. Mallon suggested the mosaic design could be used for a splash pool at McCurry Park. It was suggested that the splash pool could be similar to that at Centennial Olympic Park. Brief discussion followed on the possibility of a splash pool at McCurry Park.

Chairman Brown informed the committee that Ms. Coulibaly has suggested supporting the art initiatives in with a budget of approximately one million dollars, and that he informed her that while he appreciated her passion and that she could participate with a group of volunteers in order to raise for funding. He stated that many artists are asking for money and are worried about how they will be in business next year.

Chairman Brown said he had a whole notebook of people who try to inflate themselves but ultimately fail. He asked the committee to start working at the ground level and obtain some successes. He suggested that if there are some successes that it may garner greater interest among others who will be willing to fund larger endeavors. He further suggested that the committee should focus on three targets; specifically county-owned properties and projects with decent public exposure. He asked for the committee to focus on the ugly red box, Heritage Park fountain, the water treatment plant, and the Finance Office. He thought they may be really good projects since it will give early success and confidence bringing public art to the county.

Ms. Hawkins stated that painting the water treatment plant's wall would be a low-budget project that could be addressed after taking care of the red ugly box first and that there were a lot of artists who would be willing to work on the treatment plant without charge so that they could be recognized in the newspaper. Chairman Brown said it would be very vibrant and colorful and those who did the work would get a lot of attention. He said he could get the money, and that bringing an aquatic theme to the water treatment plant was a good approach.

Chairman Brown stated that if a good job was done on the Finance Department's wall, it would spark other interest. He stated that he was open for suggestions on how to better the Finance Department's wall. He explained that the County just cannot continue doing what it is doing. There was some discussion on addressing other departments at the Administration Complex as well. It was mentioned that it was amazing how changing the color of an office would make a big difference. Chairman Brown said he wanted to inspire staff to think outside of the box. Mr. Mallon informed the committee that staff was informed that its only choices were blue, medium blue, and light blue. Chairman Brown said he understood that history, but that the County, by taking that approach, had thrown the baby out with the bath water.

Ms. Anderson asked who the County Historian was, and she was informed that the County Historian was Carolyn Cary. Mrs. Turner said she would talk to Ms. Cary about this matter as they know each other through the Kiwanis Club.

Ms. Hawkins said she would work up a budget what it would probably cost for a local steel artist to do a steel sculpture for the Veteran's Parkway roundabout. Chairman Brown added since there will be shrubbery at the roundabout that there should be a platform that would project the artwork. He stated that there were three streetlights at the roundabout, and that perhaps a call could be made to Pro-Lighting or to Cooper Lighting to see if they wanted to do something special for the area. He asked Mr. Mallon if boring could occur under the roundabout in order to bring electrical lighting to the area, and Mr. Mallon replied that it could be bored.

Ms. Turner mentioned that as the County grows it will bring new businesses and apartments with fountains, and that the fountains may be competing with the fountain at the entrance to the City of Fayetteville. She suggested working with the apartment and businesses with their fountains. Chairman Brown that the idea was "cool," and that he would love to bring color to the County instead of the neutral greens, beiges, and light blues that are so common around the county.

Mr. Mallon suggested that the entrances to the County parks could be spruced up, and that they are lacking the weight and professionalism needed for parks. He suggested that the entrances could bring in the County's theme; as discussed. He added that they met the qualifications of being county property with high visibility. Chairman Brown agreed but added that consideration would have to be given to durability and maintenance matters. He stated that the upgrades would need to be maintenance free as possible.

Mr. Ballard pointed out that there was an issue at Heritage Park fountain since it needs repair where people sit and walk around it. He said before anything is done artistically to the fountain, it would need to be properly repaired. He stated that there was no maintenance schedule or budget for repairs to the Heritage Park fountain.

The Public Art Committee then left the meeting room for approximately 26 minutes to observe the Heritage Park fountain and the front wall in the Finance Department.

Chairman Brown suggested that there should be subcommittees around projects. He asked Mr. Ballard to work with him on Heritage Park fountain to make sure it is structurally sound before others are pulled onto the project. He asked Ms. Hawkins to work on the Veteran's Parkway roundabout structure. Chairman Brown asked Mrs. Turner to begin the work on the Crosstown Water Treatment Plant.

Ms. Cruse spoke about a new art store named Purposefully Painted where artists could start painting.

Chairman Brown asked Ms. Anderson to take on the ugly red box project, and he said he loved the idea of drawing an animal on the box. He said there would have to be ideas on how the signage is displayed on or around the box. Ms. Anderson added that she would bring color and paint chips in for the Finance Department's wall. Brief ideas were floated on how to enhance the wall in the Finance Department.

Ms. Hawkins suggested that the committee needed to think about its theme be it historical or otherwise. Chairman Brown said one good thing that has stuck with Fayette County and its jurisdictions are the greenspace. He said it was different from the rest of metropolitan Atlanta, and that the theme could focus on that difference. He said that does not mean the theme has to be "green" but that the natural setting is what many people like.

There was brief discussion on how Chattanooga, Tennessee was able to bring art to its city and how it takes perseverance. It was suggested to take this effort one step at a time and that momentum would come.

The Committee agreed to meet again on Monday, August 4, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

No vote was taken at any time during this meeting.

4. Questions

There were no additional questions asked.

5. Adjourn

Chairman Brown adjourned the meeting at 8:49 p.m.