

MEETING MINUTES
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (DDA) SUBCOMMITTEE

Wednesday, April 4, 2007
9:00 AM – 10:00 AM
Fremont City Hall
City Council Chambers

MEETING OF THE PUBLIC ART SUBCOMMITTEE

Call to Order

The Public Art Subcommittee meeting was called to order at 9:10 AM.

Public Art Subcommittee

Members Present:	Marianne Boerigter Lorna Kosztowny Lori Layne James Rynberg	Director, Newaygo County Council for the Arts (Chair) Downtown Property Owner Fremont Postmaster Fremont Mayor
Members Absent:	Dusty Bitson Jeannie Caris Bonnie Erber	Downtown Business Owner Community Member Community Member
Staff Present:	Michele Ribant	Fremont Neighborhood & Economic Development Director
Guest Present:	Cara O'Brien:	Local Artist

Update on Public Art for the Fremont Post Office Site

Chair Boerigter informed the Subcommittee that David Anderson will no longer be working with the Subcommittee to create a piece of public art for the Fremont Post Office site because he took a job out-of-state. Michele Ribant informed the Subcommittee that the Fifth Third Bank may move from its current location downtown to another location in Fremont, so until that is decided, it may be prudent to work on other art projects. Ms. Boerigter welcomed Cara O'Brien who was asked to work with the Subcommittee on public art for the Post Office site.

The Subcommittee gave Cara O'Brien the following direction:

- The artwork should have a post office theme (e.g., bicycles with flowers – mode of delivery)
- The artwork must be safe and have dignity since it is in front of a U.S. Post Office.
- The alley corner may be the most appropriate spot.
- A bench could be incorporated so that there is a place to sit and read mail.
- The artwork should not take over the space but should complement the space.
- The greens space and the building could serve as a backdrop for the art and that we should preserve as much green space as we can downtown.
- Using stamps in the artwork design was suggested.

Mayor Rynberg showed a picture of a sculpture in East Grand Rapids as a positive example of public art. Cara O'Brien was given a budget of \$10,000 - \$15,000 for the project. She indicated that she would like to be compensated for her design work at a rate of \$30.00 an hour and that she thought it would take 10 – 15 hours to develop ideas for the site. The Subcommittee acknowledged that they understood her request and that someone would get back to her regarding it.

Update on the Public Art Project for the AT&T Building

Michele Ribant reported that she, Marianne Boerigter and Renae Wallace, the artist of the murals that are planned for the front and rear facades of the AT&T building, reviewed the contract that AT&T sent to allow the City to have the artwork placed on the building. Ms. Ribant indicated that the City Attorney is creating a new contract that basically would grant the right to the City to hang and paint the murals on the facades. The current contract as written gives AT&T ownership of the artwork, which is not the intent of the artist or the City.

Discussion on Grant Opportunities and Fundraising

Chair Boerigter reported that there is a moratorium on some of the State grant opportunities for public art. She said we can submit grant requests for funding for next year though. She also said Foundations fund some art projects. She indicated that one local grant opportunity has a submission date of May, 15, 2007. Therefore, the Subcommittee asked Cara O'Brien if she could have a finished design for artwork by May 7, 2007, so that the grant application could be ready by May, 15, 2007. In order to do that, a meeting was set for April 24, 2007 so that Ms. O'Brien could show her initial designs.

Chair Boerigter indicated there was some talk about producing a community cookbook and a quilt as fundraisers for public art. After some discussion, it was decided that the Subcommittee would wait for the return of Bonnie Erber from her winter home because Ms. Erber was asked to spearhead the fundraising effort for the cookbook, and the Subcommittee wanted to hear her ideas. It was suggested that if a community cookbook was created, that it be slated to be finished by Mothers Day, 2008.

Other ideas that were suggested or re-iterated from past meetings included:

- Airplane rides (20 minute flight)
- Taste testing event at ArtsPlace
- Wild Game dinner

It was decided that at the next meeting, there would be a focus on fundraising activities.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, April 24, 2007
9:00 AM
Fremont City Hall
Council Chambers

Adjournment

There being no further business of the Subcommittee, the meeting adjourned at 10:15 AM.