

MEETING MINUTES
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (DDA) SUBCOMMITTEE

Wednesday, April 24, 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 9:07 AM.

Public Art Subcommittee

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

Update on Donation for Public Art by the National Honors Society at the Fremont High School

Chair Boerigter reported that one of the students from the National Honors Society contacted her regarding a donation the Society wants to make for public art in Fremont. Lorna Kosztowny reported that she estimates the contribution to be about \$200 and that the idea for the donation came about because students of the present want to give to students of the future. It was suggested that the generous donation could be used for a base for exchangeable art. It was also suggested that they may want to contribute towards a specific public art piece such as the art for the Fremont Post Office site. Ms. Kosztowny also wanted to ensure that we provide a plaque on or near the art recognizing the National Honors Society's generous donation; the Subcommittee agreed. Ms. Kosztowny reported that the National Honors Society would be meeting in the next day or two to determine the specifics in terms of the amount of the donation and possible uses for the donation.

Presentation of Design Ideas for the Fremont Post Office Site – Cara O'Brien

Chair Boerigter welcomed Cara O'Brien. Ms. O'Brien presented a proposed site plan and 5 different designs for the Fremont Post Office site. Ms. O'Brien indicated that based on the Subcommittee's input from the last meeting, the theme for the public art at the Fremont Post Office site was "communication" since that is what a post office is in business to promote. After much discussion, the Subcommittee provided Ms. O'Brien with the following feedback:

- They liked the way the public art was sited.
- The Subcommittee liked the idea of the base of the artwork being made out of rock.
- They liked the idea of the quill coming out of the stone but suggested that the shape be a little softer and that it flow more freely.

- The rock should be buried in the ground.
- A combination of materials (e.g., metals) could be used.

Michele Ribant reported that she would look into what, if any, requirements need to be addressed to make the artwork handicap accessible. Lori Layne indicated that as long as she knows exactly what to do in terms of maintenance of the art piece and that it is a fairly simple procedure, the post office would take on the maintenance responsibility for the art piece.

Cara O'Brien was asked to present refined designs for the post office site on April 2, 2007. Michele Ribant asked Ms. O'Brien to also include a detailed budget for the art piece including the site work that would need to be performed.

Unfinished Business

Chair Boerigter brought up the need for fundraising to create seed money for art projects. She indicated we need to spread the message of what public art can do for a community and that it plays a big part in a City's revitalization efforts. She said that the Artsplace and the City plan to fundraise together. Bonnie Erber stressed that we have to package our ideas creatively in order to sell our request for funding. She suggested that we have a theme dinner, chocolate fest, etc.

New Business

Michele Ribant asked what the Subcommittee felt about a mural for the wall or walls of the restroom facility for the new Market Pavilion. The Subcommittee indicated that they would support the idea. She indicated she may provide the idea to the Rotary Club since they want to donate toward a beautification project.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, May 2, 2007
9:00 AM
Fremont City Hall
Council Chambers

Adjournment

There being no further business of the Subcommittee, the meeting adjourned at 10:26 AM.