

MEETING MINUTES
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (DDA) SUBCOMMITTEE

Wednesday, October 17, 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 a.m. by Chair Boerigter.

Public Art Subcommittee

Members Present:	Marianne Boerigter	Director, Newaygo County Council for the Arts (Chair)
	Jeannie Caris	Community Member
	Bonnie Erber	DDA Marketing Subcommittee Chair
	Lorna Kosztowny	Downtown Property Owner
	Lori Layne	Fremont Postmaster
	James Rynberg	Fremont Mayor

Members Absent:	Dusty Bitson	Downtown Business Owner
	Ron Vliem	Executive Director, Fremont Area Chamber of Commerce

Staff Present:	Michele Ribant	Fremont Neighborhood & Economic Development Director
-----------------------	----------------	--

Guests Present:	Cara O'Brien	Local Artist
	Lori Hough	Local Artist

Report on Current Public Art Projects

Market Pavilion Restroom Facility – Mosaic: Chair Boerigter reported that the celebration for the new mosaic that is located on the south wall of the new public restroom next to the Fremont Market Place pavilion was conducted on October 4, 2007 in connection with the Fall Harvest Festival and that many people, including many Rotarians, who were instrumental in funding the project, were in attendance. She indicated that she was working on having a plaque installed next to the mosaic and that the plaque would recognize both the artist, Deb Emerick, and the donors, the Rotary Club and Bob and Bonnie Erber. The comment was made that the mosaic looks great and that it has received many positive reviews from community members.

AT&T Murals: Chair Boerigter also reported that both murals on the AT&T building, the rear and front, have been completed and that the celebration for the mural on the front façade was also celebrated during the Fall Harvest Festival. She commented that Renae Wallace, the artist, did a great job as usual.

Post Office Sculpture: Cara O'Brien, the artist that designed the sculpture to be placed on the Fremont Post Office site, gave an update on the project. She indicated that the sculpture would be mounted on a rock and that it would be delivered to the site as one piece. She said she is in search of a large rock to mount it on and that the rock would be approximately 5 feet across and up to 2 to 2-1/2 feet tall. Lori Layne said she would be working on Friday, October 19, 2007 to prepare the site. She said that she would be taking out the old landscaping and the brickpavers. The Subcommittee was invited to assist her. She

indicated that once the site was prepared, she would have the lighting installed. Cara O'Brien said she would spray paint the area where the lighting should be installed. Michele Ribant said she would ask the City DPW crew to install the cement pad and path the week of October 29, 2007.

Prioritizing New Public Art Projects

Consider Ideas from Local Artists: Lori Hough presented ideas for public art in Fremont. She showed the Subcommittee different sketches, many of which were of animals that could be incorporated into public spaces. Michele Ribant reported that Renae Wallace, a local artist, had suggested that we have some kind of contest along the lines of "Find Waldo" in murals created as part of Fremont's Public Art Program. Deb Emerick, another local artist, had suggested something similar for mosaics. Chair Boerigter indicated that Deb Emerick also had some sketches and ideas for public art for the NE corner of the market pavilion site.

Consider new Ideas from Subcommittee: Michele Ribant reported that the City is working with the Fremont Cooperative Produce Company on some site improvements and that it has been suggested as part of the project that public art be included. Michele Ribant said that there is opportunity to have a mural painted on the north wall of the main Coop building. The Subcommittee took it to another level; they talked about the possibility of painting all the buildings on the site different bright colors and that perhaps the silos could be painted. They thought it would be a great place to have some fun with art, which at the same time, could enhance the space. The goal was to provide visual stimulation from a pedestrian perspective and from a vehicular perspective. Lori Layne and Lorna Kosztowny volunteered to do research on possible art project ideas for the Coop site. Marianne Boerigter indicated that in addition to the Coop art project possibility, some consideration should be given to working on a project that is on a public space.

Funding Opportunities: Chair Boerigter reported that DTE Energy has a Foundation and that she and the Mayor had met with a representative from that Foundation and found out there is some opportunity for grant funding for some art projects. Ms. Boerigter said a grant application must be submitted by October 19, 2007 if we are to take advantage of current funding opportunities within that Foundation. Therefore, she indicated we need to prioritize the art projects that we want to pursue next to determine where funding is needed. Michele Ribant reported that in February 2008, there is an opportunity to submit a grant request to the "Hamburger Helper" Program for public art funding and that she planned on pursuing that opportunity.

Update Public Art Placement Plan

The Subcommittee prioritized the next public art projects as follows:

1. Fremont Post Office Site
2. Fremont Cooperative Produce Co. Site
3. Veterans Memorial Park – SW corner along Main Street

It was suggested that the Subcommittee review the Public Art Placement Plan in more detail at a future meeting.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, October 31, 2007
Fremont City Hall
City Council Chambers

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Michele Ribant indicated that she would ask Rob Zeldenrust to the next meeting so that the Subcommittee can share ideas they have for artwork for his building.

Adjournment

There being no further business of the Subcommittee, the meeting adjourned at 9:52 a.m.