

**MEETING MINUTES  
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (DDA) SUBCOMMITTEE**

**Thursday, June 11, 2009  
9:00 AM – 10:00 AM  
Fremont City Hall  
City Council Chambers**

**PUBLIC ART SUBCOMMITTEE**

**Call to Order**

The DDA Public Art Subcommittee meeting was called to order at 9:12 AM.

**Public Art Subcommittee**

<b>Members Present:</b>	Marianne Boerigter	Executive Director, Newaygo County Council for the Arts
	Bonnie Erber	DDA Marketing Chair
	Jim Rynberg	Fremont Mayor
	Tom Schmidt	Community Member
<b>Members Absent:</b>	Jeannie Caris	Community Member
<b>Staff Present:</b>	Michele Ribant	Fremont Neighborhood & Economic Development Director
<b>Guest:</b>	Beth Gruesbeck	Community Member

**Opening Remarks**

Chair Boerigter welcomed Beth Gruesbeck as a guest of the Public Art Subcommittee and encouraged her to consider becoming a member.

**Update on the Moose Lodge Façade Renovation/Public Art Project**

Marianne Boerigter reported that the Moose Lodge received approval for grant funding through the City's Façade Improvement Program. She informed the Subcommittee that as part of the approval of the work to be performed on the front facade, the Moose Lodge was asked to incorporate public art in the west set of windows since they cannot put in glass due to the cinder block located behind the existing fake windows. She went on to say that it is quite appropriate for the DDA Public Art Subcommittee to weigh in on the art design; therefore, she informed the Subcommittee that the artwork that was proposed by a local artist was too costly for the Moose's budget. She went on to say that she thought the windows looked balanced as they look now and that perhaps art does not need to be incorporated into the space of the window openings. She asked the

Subcommittee what they thought, and it was the consensus that the Moose should be relieved of their responsibility to provide public art in that location. Marianne Boerigter indicated she would share their feedback with the DDA Façade/Historic Preservation Subcommittee.

### **Discussion on how to Complete the Funding for the Mural for the Fremont Cooperative Site**

It was decided that the Public Art Subcommittee would organize a letter fundraising drive for the Fremont Public Art program. A letter will be sent to art supporters in the community as well as to Fremont High School alumni to ask for financial support for the public art program. The plan is to have the remaining funding (\$25,119) needed for the cooperative mural to come from the funds raised as part of the letter drive; this will be the first of many projects funded by the general art fund that is to be established.

The following individuals are responsible for the tasks outlined below:

#### Bonnie Erber

- Obtain as many alumni lists as possible and give to Michele Ribant

#### Marianne Boerigter

- Provide Michele Ribant with public art supporters list
- Set up meeting with Renae Wallace, the artist of the mural, to determine if we can enter into a contract for the cooperative mural that would exclude the cost of the lights and the installation labor. This would allow the artist time to work on the mural while the Public Art Subcommittee finishes the fundraising for the project so that the mural can be hung by October 2009.

#### Michele Ribant

- Write and send fundraising letter after receiving approval from the Public Arts Subcommittee chair
- Contact the Foundation to determine if the funds that are collected for the art program in general can be held at the Foundation

### **Discussion on Next Fremont Public Art Project**

It was decided that the next public art piece the Subcommittee will pursue funding for after the Fremont Cooperative mural project, will be a public art piece (e.g., sculpture) in the northwest corner of Veterans Memorial Park.

### **Update the Fremont Public Art Placement Plan**

The Public Art Subcommittee directed City staff to include all the public art pieces that we currently have in Fremont on the Plan.

There was some discussion on including the Gerber Baby Face in or near some of the public art pieces. It was also suggested that art be placed along the Town & Country Path, although it was recognized that the Path is outside the DDA's jurisdiction; and therefore, no DDA funds can be used for those art projects. It was also suggested that we include the youth of the community in some public art projects. It was suggested that public art could be placed at the corner of Main Street and Stewart and at the new high school site. Another suggestion made was that we could create a scavenger hunt around the public art.

### **Unfinished Business**

There was no unfinished business.

### **New Business**

Mayor Rynberg indicated that the Mayor of Holland is writing an article about the "Arts in Fremont" for the Michigan Municipal League (MML) magazine. Mayor Rynberg said that the MML Magazine is well read in Michigan amongst Michigan government officials, and this will help put Fremont on the map for the arts.

### **Next Meeting**

DDA Public Art Subcommittee meeting  
Tuesday, June 30, 2009  
9:00 AM  
City Council Chambers  
Fremont City Hall

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business of the DDA Public Art Subcommittee, the meeting adjourned at 10:18 AM.