

**Chapel Hill Public Arts Commission  
Meeting Summary – March 10, 2010**

Present: Jerry Bolas, Chair; Enid Handler; Megan Johnson; Pam Pease; Scott Radway; Steve Wright, Public Arts Coordinator; Jeff York, Public Arts Administrator. Guests: Traci Davenport; Jennifer Wales

Absent: Debbie Hepp, Vice-Chair; Carter Hubbard; Maria Lopez-Ibanez; Amanda Miller; Banu Valladares

**I. Call to Order**

Bolas called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm.

**II. Approval of Minutes of February 10, 2010**

The approval of the February 10, 2010 minutes was tabled due to absence of quorum.

**III. Introduction of Guests**

Guests and Commissioners introduced themselves.

**IV. Public Art Administrator's Report**

- Natural Selections Exhibit – 80 photographic applications have been received and the Artist Selection Committee will meet next week to select 30 – 35 artists to exhibit. The show will debut April 10<sup>th</sup> at the Earth Action Day event at Southern Community Park and then be on exhibit at University Mall from April 12<sup>th</sup> to May 30<sup>th</sup>.
- UNC/Town Wayfinding Project Update – A meeting will be held tomorrow to finalize the prototype designs and locations for the NCDOT vehicular signage. The Downtown Wayfinding signage will be finalized later.
- Mayor's Institute for Urban Planning / NEA Grant – A grant application is being developed to these agencies for a mobile device website that provides local cultural arts information, similar to <http://www.yelp.com>.
- Superstreet Gateway Project Report – The Town Manager recently met with the head of NCDOT regarding this project. A future meeting will be held between the NCDOT, the Town Manager, the Mayor, and the former Mayor. Radway presented for Commission consideration a draft Resolution of Support for Public Art Located Within and Upon NCDOT Rights-of-Way that requests Town Council authorize the Mayor or his designee, the Town Manager, and the Commission to develop a statewide constituency to advocate for the allowance of public art in NCDOT right-of-ways. While he noted that no permission was required for the Commission to make a request, Bolas suggested that the Mayor's and Manager's opinions of the draft request be sought.

**V. Town Plan Reading Assignments**

York explained that Commissioners were reading Town plans in preparation for the Commission's development of a public art plan.

Handler presented the 2002 Parks & Recreation Master Plan, and noted that it was based on information from 2000. While the "Trends" and "Staff" sections were outdated, the following sections seemed relevant to public art issues: "Facility Standards", "New Development", "Joint Use" (between Parks & Rec, other departments, and the school system), "Recreation" (including Greenways), "Wayfinding", "Orange County and Other Municipalities" (including Carrboro, Hillsborough and Durham), "Federal and State Funding" (of public lands, forestry, etc.) and "Recommendations". Handler recommended that the Commission look to insert specific public art language where appropriate and that it also take a global approach to make public art an intrinsic part of Parks & Recreation. Commissioners reaffirmed their desire that the name of the Parks & Recreation Department reflect its Cultural Arts function.

Radway presented the Land Use Management Ordinance, which is different from other plans in that it contains regulations. He noted there was no section on design guidelines and identified two areas of the plan that could connect to public art: 1. Town Center Districts and the R-SS-C zone (Residential-Special Standards-Conditional) and 2. the Mixed-Use Village Zone (and especially Arterial Streets). Radway said architectural design reviews should go before the Arts Commission as well as the Community Design Commission.

Johnson presented the 1988 Master Landscape Plan for Entryway Corridors. The Plan addresses public art as it calls for aesthetic enhancements of lighting, overpasses, bridges and gateways. Page 32, Section 14 also mentions bus stops, street amenities and signage. The section on overall objectives is the best place to include new language on public art.

On behalf of Hubbard, York reported on the Chapel Hill / Carrboro Transportation Plan, a 42-slide Powerpoint consisting of maps and other illustrations. Transportation-oriented development is the main theme, and the plan calls for pedestrian bridges, park and ride decks, greenways and bikeways, bike and bus stations, and transit centers. Public art could be integrated into the design of all these features.

#### **VI. Commissioner Work Session Update**

The Work Session facilitated by Georgann Eubanks will be held Wednesday, April 14 from 5:30 – 9 p.m. in the First Floor Conference Room of Chapel Hill Town Hall. Refreshments will be provided. Bolas and York met with Eubanks and a draft agenda will be sent to the Commission via email tomorrow for comments.

#### **VII. Collection Inventory and Management Issues**

Wright reported that after touring Town buildings and searching previous records he has inventoried and compiled photographs of just over 200 items that may be considered Town-owned artwork. The majority of these items are currently covered by Town insurance either specifically or under a blanket \$50,000 policy; items that are not currently insured are being appraised for this purpose. Approximately 100 of these items have no record indicating Town ownership, yet they have been in Town buildings for many years and are likely undocumented gifts to the Town. The Commission is responsible for advising Town Council on management of the Town's Permanent Collection and has Gift and Deaccession policies, yet an overall collection management policy does not exist, nor does a catalog of Permanent Collection artwork. The Commission inquired about the Town's protocol for inventorying its assets, and Bolas recommended that at a future date the Commission discuss the purpose of the Permanent Collection and that the Arts Office present some options for Commission action regarding the 200 items in question.

#### **VIII. Percent For Art Project Updates**

- The Greenways project Public Art Review Committee will meet March 19 to review artist Al Frega's Construction Documents.
- Lot 5 / 140 West – York, Wright and Town project specialist Chris Berndt have contacted the artists about recommencing work once a discussion with Ram Development Company occurs and paperwork is signed.

#### **IX. Committees and Project Reports**

- "Presence is Progress" Community Art Project – York reported that the first of two mobilizations led by artist Park McArthur occurred Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup> in Carrboro. Wright showed slides of the event.
- "Facing Our Neighbors" Community Art Project – St. Joseph's CME Church will hold an exhibit of photographs created in this project on May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- "Home Is..." Community Art Project – York will meet with the artist and his class at NC State tomorrow to look at preliminary work. A suitable storefront venue for the final project has yet to be determined for technical reasons.
- Public Art in Private Development Guidelines – Radway reported that new draft revisions are waiting on comments from the Planning Director.

#### **X. Other Announcements / Public Comment**

There were no announcements or comment.

#### **XI. Potential Commissioner Application Review & Recommendations**

Guests were excused and thanked for attending. Current applications were reviewed by the Commission and appointment procedures were discussed. A quorum of seven votes (two by proxy and five in person) were cast by Commissioners in favor of recommending to Town Council the appointment of Jennifer Wales to the Chapel Hill Public Arts Commission.

#### **XI. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m.