



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
**DEPARTMENT FOR CULTURE
& CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT**

**San Antonio Arts Commission
Public Art Committee
Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, April 5, 2016

9am

**Plaza de Armas
115 Plaza de Armas
San Antonio, TX 78205**

Members Present

Yadhira Lozano – D3
Valeria Hernandez - D5
Freda Facey – D9
Suhail Arastu – Mayoral
Rene Barilleaux – Mayoral
Eduardo Garcia – Mayoral (Vice-Chair)

Members absent

Jessica Sanchez - Mayoral

Staff

Debbie Racca-Sittre
Diana Hidalgo
James LeFlore
Sarah Yates
Lisa Biediger
Rebecca Johnson
Henry Estrada
Lauren Faske

Meeting called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Eduardo Garcia.
Roll Call taken by Sarah Yates.

Approval of minutes:

a. Motion: Suhail Arastu set forth a motion to approve the Public Art Committee meeting minutes from the meeting held on February 2, 2016. Valeria Hernandez seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion approved.

DCCD Staff Introduction

James LeFlore provided DCCD Staffing updates including Felix Padrón's retirement and introducing Debbie Racca-Sittre as the new Interim Director. Mr. LeFlore then introduced Diana Hidalgo that would

be serving as the new Interim Contracts Administrator since Ruby Webb was no longer with the department.

Debbie Racca-Sittre shared a little more about her background including her being a San Antonio native, her education and work experience.

Yadhira Lozano inquired if a national search was going to be conducted for the Director position. Ms. Racca-Sittre replied that a consultant had been brought in to help define more clearly what the job description should cover before advertising and that it should take approximately 6 months to bring a new Director on board.

Elmendorf Lake Concept Design (Action Item)

Mr. LeFlore shared the overview of the project that was last reviewed by the Committee and Commission as an artist selection. Mr. LeFlore provided information on the artist David Dahlquist, budget for the project, location, selection panel members as well as the Council District the project was located within.

Mr. LeFlore showed images and video of the concept design that was inspired by rippling water observed throughout San Antonio. Mr. LeFlore shared more information about the design, proposed materials and site plans.

Mr. Garcia asked about the thickness of the metal sheets. Rebecca Johnson stated that the combined sheets would be approximately 1 foot thick but hollow in the middle to leave room for lighting element.

Ms. Lozano asked if there was heavy pedestrian traffic in the area. DCCD staff responded that there was a significant amount of pedestrian traffic, especially from the University.

Rene Barilleaux asked if the artists had considered not making it so tall. Mr. Garcia added that he understood why the artist would want it so tall for the view from vehicular traffic but had safety concerns for pedestrians especially at night. Mr. Arastu echoed Mr. Barilleaux's and Mr. Garcia's comments. Mr. LeFlore stated that part of the reason for the structures to be so tall was to create a gateway piece but understands the safety concerns at the concept level. Ms. Johnson responded that more spaces through openings could create more visibility.

Ms. Lozano commented that she thought there would be some kind of water element with the inspiration being rippling water. Mr. LeFlore stated that was just the inspiration but there was no thought on adding any water element. Ms. Lozano then asked if there was an opportunity for seating and if there were any close by bus stops. Mr. LeFlore stated that there weren't any stops next to the project, although there will be a flashing pedestrian crosswalk installed at the bus stops on either side of W Commerce Street. The project would create a clear entrance to the park.

Mr. Garcia added that the incline shown in the site plan may make the structures appear even taller. Ms. Racca-Sittre added that she is familiar with the area and that there is a lot of pedestrian traffic and that there have been several vehicular accidents with pedestrians and more safety features are being added to the crossings.

Mr. LeFlore stated that the next steps would include gathering community and client input in further design development and that the final design would be brought back for Public Art Committee review and then San Antonio Arts Commission review.

Ms. Lozano asks about the material and whether they believe a reflection will be an issue for vehicular traffic and suggested considering an alternative color, less reflective and more evocative of water. Valeria Hernandez also echoed Ms. Lozano's concerns about reflections. Mr. LeFlore stated that a shade study would be done further in the process.

Ms. Lozano also stated that she wished the project had more personality and hoped the feedback would help with the development of the final design.

Mr. Garcia stated he had concerns also about the openings creating potentially sharp edges and hollow area of the sheets becoming a trash receptacle and considerations should be made to the design to prevent.

Motion: Mr. Arastu set forth a motion to approve the Elmendorf Lake Concept Design with consideration given to the comments brought forth during the review of the project. Mr. Barilleaux seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Vote: Motion approved.

Announcements and Reports

Mr. LeFlore stated that DCCD staff did not have any new reports.

Mr. Garcia gave an update that the Local Artist Task Force had briefly met and that another meeting would be scheduled.

Mr. Garcia requested local artist, James Hetherington to give a presentation to the Public Art Committee as part of a new initiative to give local artists more opportunity to share the word about their work.

James Hetherington gave a presentation to the Public Art Committee sharing his background, scopes of work as well as his focus on conservation and preservation. He shared images of his previous completed projects and designs.

Mr. Garcia thanked Mr. Hetherington for his time.

Mr. LeFlore stated that in order to keep this initiative and opportunity going a new series would be created to serve as a sort of "open mic" night to hear about local artists and give them more visibility. This open mic format would allow for the Committee meetings to be reserved for project design reviews. Mr. LeFlore that the next steps would be developing a format for this new series.

Citizens to be Heard

Laura Varela – Varela Film

Adjournment:

Motion: Rene Barilleaux set forth a motion to adjourn the meeting. Valeria Hernandez seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

Vote: Approved unanimously, motion approved.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.