



**CITY OF
MOUNT
DORA**

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**PUBLIC ARTS COMMISSION MEETING
City Hall Board Room, 510 N. Baker Street, Mount Dora, FL 32757
November 23, 2021 at 3:30 p.m.**

MINUTES

PRESENT: Thomas Decker, Susan Grogan, James Lesperance, Maryann McNamara,
Harlow Middleton, John Wesner

ABSENT: None

CITY STAFF: Christopher Carson – Cultural & Special Events Coordinator, Jeanann Hand
– Leisure Services Administrative Coordinator, Amy Jewell – Leisure
Services Director, Jen Schwarz – Leisure Services Operations Manager

I. Call to Order

Mr. Decker called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

II. Roll Call

III. Approval of Minutes

A. October 26, 2021

**MOTION by Mr. Middleton, SECONDED by Mr. Lesperance to approve the minutes
from October 26, 2021.**

AYE: Decker, Grogan, Lesperance, McNamara, Middleton, Wesner

NAY: None

MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

IV. Public Comment

V. Presentations

VI. Action Items

A. Selection of Public Art for Cauley Lott Park

Cauley Lott Park is being redesigned with construction scheduled to begin near January of 2022. Members had previously discussed a painted crosswalk at that location, but were now considering other forms of public art for the park. A splash pad may be added to the adjoining Lillie Park. The current park elements were discussed. Suggestions for art included Martin Luther King, Jr. quotes, banners, sidewalk art, and statues. Members were interested in commemorating the park's namesake. Art for the park would be funded by impact fees and a portion of a grant award from an applied-for African American Cultural and Historical grant.

Members noted the outdoor nature of African American culture, and considered the appropriateness of artistic yet utilitarian items at the location. Mr. Middleton proposed consultation with an authority on African American culture regarding relevant choices of art for such a park.

Members would like a Call to Artists for public art at this location. They agreed they would like the art to be educational, especially regarding the history of the neighborhood and its characters of influence. City staff would present a draft of a Call to Artists at the next Commission meeting.

Other ideas brought forward were a kiosk presenting historical information, new playground equipment, tree stump checker tables, a community garden, and reference to the Rosenwald School.

The park renovation would involve adjustments to parking spaces and the relocation of an existing pavilion. Members agreed they would prefer the art to be representative of Professor Cauley Lott and other historical figures. If the Commission chooses a painted crosswalk for this location, the installation must take place after construction. It is unclear whether the funds from the grant designated for public art must be spent at one time. A Call to Artists might be issued in the spring, with submissions accepted over several months and concluding after grant monies are received. Members agreed the artist could set the price, and hoped to find an artist with an understanding of African American culture and heritage.

B. Selection of Art for Lincoln Pool or Lincoln Park

The first phase of the pool renovation is complete and aquatics programming is thriving. In the past, members had discussed a mosaic or mural at this location. The aquatic activities at Lincoln Park may heavily influence the theme of the art. Members discussed themes that are historic or are inspirational for swimmers. The pool is used by people of all ages.

Some of the upgrades taking place at the pool could be accomplished in an artistic manner. The chain link fence will be replaced with a different type of fence. Ideas were brought forward about landscape architecture and an enhanced entrance to the pool. A grand entrance with a possible water feature was suggested, as well as art not related to the entrance, such as a mosaic sign, a mural on the wall, art work in a spirit similar to that of LeRoy Neiman, and a possible installation at the dog park. The idea was raised to design signs for the various areas of Lincoln Park.

Green space by the pool is too close to the street to be used as a soccer field. It may later be part of a trail.

Members remarked that the current curb appeal of the pool does not impress passersby with the true high quality it offers. A recent swim meet held there brought heightened attention to the excellence of the facility, and more similar activity is likely. Members were in favor of clearer branding for the pool. A sparkling water mosaic sign could be part of that branding.

GAI would be able to work the sign into their plan for the park. Members liked the idea of a water feature sign with a mosaic behind it. Mr. Middleton suggested the facility be named as a complex or campus. Ms. Jewell informed members about the recently approved facility naming policy. Members discussed the possibility of trust funding. Members were in favor of a local Call to Artists for the project.

C. Selection of Public Art for the Triangle Elementary Joint-use Playground

The project was budgeted \$1.1 million by the City, but its cost estimate is currently at \$2 million. Material prices have risen since initial projections. It is not a mandatory location for public art, but Commission members may want to decide to contribute to the project in some way. The park will fill a level of service gap in a low-income area. Art may be in the form of playground equipment, although that option is expensive. Teacher input would be helpful in choosing how the Commission might contribute to the project. An interactive musical piece is another option. Playground equipment had already been approved and presented to the school board, but two of the presented pieces are being replaced with other fixtures. Adult fitness equipment will be another element of the park. Members seemed most in favor of a piece of playground equipment. Artistic windscreens for the chain link fence were also discussed. Members will continue to consider their participation in this project.

D. Selection of Public Art for the Canoe and Kayak Launch at Palm Island Park

Members agreed Mr. Middleton's idea for a Native American family sculpture might be appropriate at this location. Other ideas presented by members were pieces themed around fishing, canoes, and Florida native flora and fauna. The anthropological history of the area was discussed, as well as the expense of installing sculptures at the waterfront, with the existing

Old Joe alligator sculpture as a reference point. Members agreed art at the lake front will contribute well to the development of the area.

Fountain installation was briefly revisited.

Further art ideas for the kayak launch included whimsical benches and seats. Ms. Grogan would be sending photos of public art to staff.

The Boy Scout building is still without definite plans for renovation.

VII. Resolutions

VIII. Ordinances

IX. Discussion Items

X. City Staff

A. Ongoing Project List

There were no submissions to the Call to Artists for Light Pole Banner designs at this time.

B. Public Art Master Plan Update

City staff reported Josh Lapp from Designing Local felt his visit to Mount Dora accomplished his intentions.

C. Ongoing Budget Balances

A current budget report was included in the agenda packet for member review.

XI. Communications and Reports

A. Commission Member Susan Grogan

B. Commission Member James Lesperance

C. Commission Member Maryann McNamara

Ms. McNamara voiced disapproval for the appearance of the Waterman bridge.

D. Commission Member John Wesner

E. Vice-Chair Harlow Middleton

F. Chair Thomas Decker

There will be no meeting in December.

XII. Future Meeting Dates

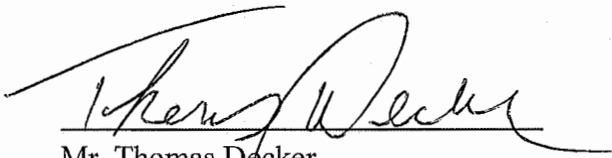
A. December 28, 2021, 3:30 PM

B. January 25, 2022, 3:30 PM

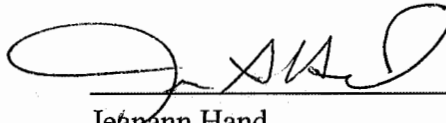
C. February 22, 2022, 3:30 PM

XIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Mr. Decker at 5:13 PM.



Mr. Thomas Decker
Chairperson



Jeannan Hand
Leisure Services Administrative Coordinator

2-22-22