

Minutes

The City of Greenbelt Arts Advisory Board November 1, 2011

Present: Board members Anna Socrates (Vice Chair), Ginny Zanner, John Drago, Shane Wisdom, Mark Granfors-Hunt, and Gale Martineau; Nicole DeWald (staff liaison).

Members absent with prior notice: Tatiana Ausema (Chair), Tiahna Nugent, Konrad Herling (Council liaison)

Meeting focus: indoor public art sites

Ms. Socrates opened the meeting at 7:21pm.

The Board reviewed and approved the minutes of the October 4 meeting, as amended, by acclamation.

Board members reported to the group on sites which they had visited with an eye toward identifying locations for public art installations at City facilities.

Mr. Wisdom commented on opportunities at the Public Works facility. He suggested that artwork could possibly be accommodated in or near the main office, and that artwork made with recycled materials would be especially appropriate. He questioned the degree to which the facility is accessible to and visited by the general public.

Mr. Granfors-Hunt commented on the Greenbelt Aquatic and Fitness Center. He noted that artwork is regularly displayed on the brick columns in the lobby, which he felt was the optimal display area for 2-dimensional work in the facility. Opportunities for the display of 3-dimensional work include the pool deck and vending area, where sculptures have been displayed in the past.

Mr. Granfors-Hunt also commented on the Greenbelt Youth Center. He suggested that the primary display areas would include: wall space in the game room, the brick wall by the stairs to the basement, and the area by the water fountain. The group discussed the "high energy" usage of the facility, noting that artwork placed here should be durable and/or installed out of reach.

Discussion of the Springhill Lake Recreation Center was postponed.

Round Robin topics included the following:

- Mr. Wisdom requested that business cards or an ID be provided to AAB members to facilitate the work they are doing in the community on behalf of the board.
- Mr. Drago announced the upcoming Artful Afternoon and Greenbelt Dances! Expo on Nov. 6, at which several Greenbelt companies will be performing and leading workshops.
- Mr. Drago relayed that Mayor Pro-Tem Emmett Jordan had spoken with him about an interest in public art generally, and possibly a new mural for the side of the Greenbelt Co-op grocery store.
- Ms. Zanner reported that Goddard's production of Showboat is still running and doing well.
- Ms. Socrates announced that the Recreation Department's Art and Craft Fair is approaching on December 3 and 4.

The group viewed a ceramic tile panel created by Artist in Residence Mary Gawlik and community members through an intergenerational workshop at an Artful Afternoon. Ms. Socrates was among the contributors to the piece. The Board unanimously agreed that the piece should be exhibited by the City, and endorsed by acclamation a staff recommendation that the work be installed on the interior end wall of the Community Center's second floor hallway.

The group visited the Greenbelt Municipal Building to assess opportunities for the display of artwork at that facility. Top recommendations included: the glass above the doors facing Crescent Road (for a work in stained glass or other translucent material); and the brick wall in the stairwell between the first and second floors (for a large fiber work). Other possible display areas identified by the Board included: the brick wall along the stairs leading to the Crescent Road entrance; the brick wall in the stairwell to the IT Department; the painted wall outside of the Council meeting room, if another location could be found for the plaques currently displayed there; and the side walls of the Council meeting room, currently obscured by curtains.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nicole DeWald, staff liaison

Approved by acclamation at the January 3, 2012 meeting