



City of Richmond Public Art Commission

April Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 25, 2024

3:30 PM

Location: 5th Floor Conference Room, City Hall

This was a hybrid meeting.

SPECIAL GUIDELINES FOR PUBLIC ACCESS AND CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Accessing the Meeting

Directions for accessing the meeting virtually were available at <https://richmondva.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>; access was available via phone (two-way audio only); online by computer, tablet or smartphone (audio and video) or one-way audio online.

Participating in the Meeting/Providing Public Comment

The public was invited to submit comments in writing prior to the meeting via email to susan.glasser@richmondgov.com in lieu of speaking through audio or video means during the meeting.

No public comments were received prior to the meeting.

AGENDA

Call to Order

Commission Chair Ashley Kistler called the meeting to order at 3:36 PM.

Roll Call

Present: Ashley Kistler, Andrea Almond, Maggie Bettin, Leo Mantey, Charles Piper

Absent: Ana Edwards, Matt Spahr

Approval of the Minutes

Ashley Kistler, Andrea Almond, Leo Mantey, Charles Piper, Matt Spahr

Maggie Bettin made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted, seconded by Andrea Almond. An oral roll call was conducted and the minutes were approved by all Commissioners present at the March meeting as listed above.

Secretary's Report

FY25 PAC Budget: \$250K in CIP plus \$100K for temporary art. Jordan submitting a budget amendment for an additional \$50K for temporary art.

UDC Representative on the PAC: It has been confirmed that the Planning Commission rather than the PAC must nominate and approve members of the PAC (until such time as the new PAC ordinance is adopted). The UDC-recommended replacement for Justin Doyle who has stepped down from the PAC as he takes on the Chair of the UDC will be presented to and voted on at the CPC May 7 meeting.

Police Memorial Statue: Retired policeman Glenwood Burley has reached out to the PAC asking to have the statue reintroduced to Byrd Park after having to remove it due to vandalism. Below is his statement; he apologizes for not being able to present this to the PAC directly but he is unwell.

Our Police Memorial was removed from William Byrd Park, during the June, 2020 civil unrest. Continuously for nights it was vandalized and damaged by paints, lacquers, feces—etc. To prevent additional damage it was decided to take it away for temporary safekeeping. I raised thousands of dollars to have it repaired and give it a restored patina. Of the 39 officers on the plaque, 10 were named as killed during the 1870 "balcony collapse" at the State Capitol.

Two years of effort and pleas to relocate our Statue on Capitol Square have been a "bridge too far." Specifically, my objective on [Thursday's PAC meeting] was to appeal to you to facilitate the progress of returning our Police Memorial back to the beautiful Park Memorial Plaza (At the corner of Blanton Ave. & Police Memorial Way) in Byrd Park. It's truly an emotional and heartbreaking hurt to know our memorial sets, wrapped in tarps—stored in a city warehouse—being denied its honor and respect to be displayed as a symbol of sacrifice!

Respectfully - with best regards.
Glenwood Burley

The Secretary has reached out to the Police Department to see if there was an interest in having the statue located at the Grace Street headquarters or a police precinct but have not heard back from them. When this was relayed to Mr. Burly, his response was, "There is no level of comparison placing our Memorial at Police Hq. on Grace or the precincts ; to returning it to the [sic] Byrd Park's Police Memorial Plaza. The three key points for selecting Byrd Park—was it gave our Statue 1- Visibility
2. Accessability
3. Honor

No records have been found indicating that this work was ever accepted by the City as a gift of art. It was first installed on city property in the 1980s before there was a gift policy. Further research is needed to see if this statue needs to go through the Gift of Art process or if it can be considered grandfathered in. Research on the cost of moving and reinstalling the work will also need to be conducted.

Ashley: could still be vandalized again; Andrea ditto; what happens to plaque if relocate outside of Byrd Park. Road renamed as Police Way or something like that.

PAC Ordinance:

It is still anticipated that the final draft of the ordinance will be completed by the end of April so introducing it to City Council this summer.

Temporary Art:

The Secretary has met with the City Attorney's Office, DPW and Risk Management to attempt to streamline the entire process from drafting the RFP to a signed artist agreement. The Secretary is working on drafting a new production schedule that would (tentatively) post the RFP in May, finalize artist selections in June/July, draft artist agreements in July/August and installation in time for October's First Friday.

The desired position of Project Manager will require a job description drafted and confirmation from the PDR Director as to available funding.

Projects:

Southside Community Center Skatepark

On Wednesday, April 24, the artist reported: "The site has been prepped . . . Our building permit was approved about 2 weeks ago. The only hold up now is that I am still waiting to receive the first installment of money from the city. As soon as I receive that, I can pay out my subcontractors and they can schedule and begin working."

The Secretary has reached out to Accounts Payable and resubmitted the artist's invoice (for the second time) and urged it be immediately processed.
Southside Community Center Gateway

The artist's lawyer's second review of the contract has been forwarded to the City Attorney's Office where it is currently being edited as needed.

Broad Rock Community Garden

This project should be completed in the coming days.

Alice Fitz Community Garden

This project should be completed by May 20th.

Fire Station #12

Glass designs will be sent out for fabrication in the next week or so. The entire installation will be completed this summer.

Broad Street and VCU's Real Estate Fdn: Councilwoman Jordan and the PDR Director have met with VCU about possible collaborative opportunities that would allow the City access to VCU-owned properties in the 2nd District's portion of the Arts District. The Secretary has forwarded the PAC's previous proposal for converting 401 W. Broad Street into a cultural hub to the Councilor.

Regular Agenda

Trailhead Finalists

Finalists include:

- Kwame Bamfo Akoto (Ghana)
- Vinnie Bagwell (Yonkers)
- Tanda Francis (Brooklyn)
- Tanya Watson (Lawrenceville, GA)
- Sandy Williams (RVA)

An information meeting for the finalists was held on Friday, April 5 which included an overview of the project RFP (Susan Glasser), the Baskervill installation on the same sight (Ryan David from Baskervill) and an historic overview of the history of enslavement in Richmond (Ana Edwards). Finalists were also able to ask questions. Final proposals are due May 27 at midnight.

Bon Secour Gifts of Art

A motion was made by Maggie Bettin to approve the gift with the condition that the word "RESILIENT" be spelled correction; the motion was seconded by Charles Piper. An oral roll call was conducted and the gift was approved unanimously by all Commissioners present.

Alice Banks Gift of Art

The Secretary shared the safety concerns expressed by members of the Historic Jackson Ward Neighborhood Association. Further research on national playground safety regulations is needed. If Abner Clay Park proves unworkable, Winfree Cottage is another desirable location.

A motion was made by Charles Piper to approve the gift with the condition that the \$13,500 relocation cost be negotiable; the motion was seconded by Maggie Bettin. An oral roll call was conducted and the gift was approved unanimously by all Commissioners present.

Other Business for Consideration

Adjournment

Commission Chair Ashley Kistler called the meeting adjourned at 4:52.