

Basalt Public Arts Commission (BPAC)

February 3, 2022

Meeting Via Zoom

Members: Liz Bell, Karyn Andrade, Anna Lohr

Staff: Susan Philp, Sara Nadolny, James Lindt

Guest: Brit White (Art Base), Diane Merkt (Steadman Clinic), Robbie Joseph (Romney Medical Properties)

Agenda

- Approval of Minutes from 12/2/2021 & 1/6/2022
- Discussion/recommendation on mural on Steadman Clinic
- Report on Ice Sculptures
- 2022 Work Program Items
- Other updates

Meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm.

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes.

M/S Anna Lohr and Karyn Andrade to approve the meeting minutes from December 2, 2021 and January 6, 2022. Motion passed 3 to 0.

2. Mural proposed on Steadman Clinic.

Robbie Joseph introduced himself as the representative of the developer and owner of Steadman Clinic in Willits Town Center. He said that the goal of the developer is to create projects that blend in with the existing structures in the area.

Susan told BPAC members that this request is similar to the mural request previously reviewed for the Free Range restaurant downtown. James said that a mural is being proposed on the building adjacent to Reed Street Park and showed a site plan. The mural will face the Reed Street Park on the first floor. James showed an image of the mural, which is a natural scene depicting a person in a canoe, crossing a lake. The proposed size is 258" x 145" in height with a thickness of about 3 ¼ inches.

Robbie said the work will be done by a local artist named John Kelley who formerly worked for Sports Illustrated. Kelley has had a relationship with the Steadman Clinic for a number of years. The mural will be outside of the building, seen by local residents of the neighborhood, users of the park and visitors to Steadman Clinic. He said the image makes you feel like you are part of the picture.

Diane Merkt of the Steadman Clinic added that the artist, John Kelley, has been a patron of the Steadman Clinic since its founding. The art is about the Colorado outdoor lifestyle and keeping people active, which is what they try to do as an orthopedic group. She believes the mural fits well within the aesthetics of Willits. Diane noted that the mural was presented to design review board for Willits Town Center and met their approval. The mural will be comprised of nine panels printed on vinyl and adhered to metal material. The panels should last around five to seven years.

Susan was interested in maintenance of the mural and how it would be addressed. Susan suggested that if BPAC wants to move forward with a recommendation to approve the mural, a condition should be made to memorialize requirements related to maintenance with a review by the Town's Technical Review Committee.

Robbie said his client takes pride in the properties he owns and considers the artwork as part of the building. They will maintain the mural to the standards they feel are appropriate. The mural will be replaced if it gets bleached by the sun. He said they will need to discuss with artist how the panels may be able to be replaced if vandalized, or if they could be cleaned.

Diane provided additional information about the proposed materials in greater detail, and that a protective material applied to all faces of the mural.

The mural will be installed just a foot off of the ground, so it can be touched. Steadman Clinic will employ a snow removal company for the sidewalks which would also clear snow from base of the mural. James said that a conversation would need to be had with the Town's Public Works Department, so snow is not pushed up against the mural when maintaining the park.

In response to a question regarding how the artist was decided upon, Diane said there was not a formal call for artist. Steadman Clinic's CEO wanted John Kelley to be the artist for this mural, and a few of John's photos were considered for this mural. He did not want to paint the mural directly onto the brick façade, feeling that it may not hold up as well. The mural has been planned with the least number of panels possible to create the least number of visual breaks. The intent is not to see the small space between each panel.

Susan said that the Applicant is hopeful to get the building finished in the near future. She asked BPAC if they would like to provide their feedback in a Special Meeting or to email individual comments. BPAC decided to provide comments by email after which Staff will take action on the item.

Susan said BPAC could suggest a requirement to remove the mural within five years and have a replacement mural ready. If a lot of maintenance is found to be necessary, the mural concept may need to be revisited.

Liz felt reluctant to overly condition the mural. James said Staff could craft conditions related to the timely repair in case of vandalism or wear. He suggested creating a condition requiring an evaluation of the mural after a certain amount of time (such as 4-5 years based on suggestion of lifespan).

Robbie said there will lighting on sensors within the park that may deter vandalism.

Brit asked if the photograph was taken at a Colorado location. Diane was uncertain and offered to reach out to the artist for this information. Brit noted that it may be even better received if there is a local connection. Staff asked Diane to follow up with this information.

Liz said that she enjoys that the art is accessible to everyone and not just an image of an athlete.

3. Report on Ice Sculptures

Sara reported out on ice sculpture event – all four were successfully installed over between January 15th and January 17th. Unfortunately, the trout, which was installed at a high-sun location at the library, did not even last a week. Sara reported on the signs that were made that have QR codes leading to

various children's books on the topic of the ice sculpture, both in English and Spanish, and thanked the Art Base for their contribution of take-home art kits that were distributed at the library.

Sara said she was able to attend some of the live ice sculpture demonstration at Arboney Park and was pleased to see other families out watching the event as well. She was also able to watch the pinecone being assembled on the TACAW site. That area is well shaded, and Sara expects that ice sculpture to be around through the winter.

Liz reported on her interview with KDNK to highlight the ice sculpture event.

4. Sculptures

Susan reminded BPAC of their assignment to review the map for West Basalt which highlighted areas of public property that could be potential locations to place a future sculpture. Sara reported that she had checked in with Chris Beiser, the Town's Arborist/Horticulturist regarding locations. Chris was very supportive of installing more public art around Basalt and favors the plaza/pocket park adjacent to the Whole Foods parking lot first, with his second location choice being within the round-a-bout.

Liz said she visited Chris Cox's property up the Fryingpan. Chris has been making sculptures with found objects such as oil tanks, plows, roots from trees, chains, cable spools, etc. Liz said rusted materials could be used at the round-a-about since people would not be interacting with them. Chris said he would give a good price if the Town is interested in any of his sculptures.

Liz thought another viable location for the sculpture could be near the Basalt sign. She wondered if the location or the artist should be considered first. Susan said that with the past mural project, BPAC picked a few locations and let the artists suggest others, and all chosen areas were blessed by Council. In the end, BPAC picked the final locations. Liz suggested BPAC zero in on a few locations, put out a call to artists, and then have them show exactly what sculpture they would put in that location. Susan suggested Staff dust off what was done for the Motio installation to see how the call to artists was handled.

Brit said he would like to see an initial effort to go to certain prominent spots identified by BPAC and Staff. As more opportunities arise with additional sculptures, the prominent spots will set the tone. Some sculptures would be prominent and some more hidden surprises. Brit said he likes the round-a-bout as a prominent sculpture space.

Liz wants to ensure there is parity between east and west Basalt – if the first sculpture is prominent in the downtown area, the first in Willits should not be hidden.

Suggestions for locations:

- Brit – Roundabout, rugby field
- Karyn – will email locations
- Liz – roundabout, rugby field, park adjacent to Whole Foods, Reed Street Park.

5. Other items

A. Sara has attempted to contact the sculpture that lives at Willits Bend – Gail. Susan suggested perhaps she could be a speaker at a future BPAC meeting. Susan also suggested local artist Reina

Katzenberger could be a great speaker. BPAC members said they were in favor of having guest speakers talk to the group in 2022.

B. 2022 BPAC Grant program –

Questions:

- Will there be a theme?
- Can the grant go toward operating money or will there be a particular program focus?

Susan thinks requiring a theme will prove difficult and suggested the request be made for projects that meet certain goals, such as inclusivity, rather than just operational costs. This will be a topic for the next meeting agenda as it is anticipated that organizations will be contacting the Town for funding soon.

Susan reported on Art Base exhibition with artist Reina Katzenberger.

C. BPAC members. Brit Whit (Art Base) has participated as a guest for the past couple of meetings. Abby Gierke is no longer with the Art Base. TACAW and Art Base are required to have at least one member on the BPAC board. Susan asked if BPAC members are interested in making a recommendation to Council to appoint Brit to the BPAC board. All BPAC members at the meeting were in favor of having Brit appointed to BPAC. Sara will reach out to the remaining members who are absent to get their feedback.

Sara will work on an ad to solicit new BPAC members. She will include a statement regarding diversity. It was suggested the ad be sent to such organizations as Valley Life For All, Valley Settlement and English in Action. The requirements is to have at least three in-town members.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm