



City of Aurora

2nd Floor Council
Chambers
44 East Downer Place
Aurora, Illinois 60505
www.aurora-il.org

FoxWalk Overlay District Design Review Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday

September 22, 2021

6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Zine called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The following Committee members were present: Fernando Castrejon, Karen Christensen, Fawn Clarke-Peterson, Brian Failing, Seth Hoffman, Jeff Palmquist and Charlie Zine. Clara Diaz called in and excused herself from the meeting.

OTHERS PRESENT

The following staff members were present: Jill Morgan, Ed Sieben, Jennifer Evans and Sue Jackson.

Others Present: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

21-0760

Approval of the Minutes of the FoxWalk Overlay District Design Review Committee meeting on July 29, 2021.

A motion was made by Mr. Castrejon, seconded by Mr. Failing, that the minutes be approved and filed. The motion carried by voice vote.

COA REPORT

[21-0697](#)

FoxWalk Certificate of Appropriateness Report (COA's Approved by Staff - July 1, 2021-August 31, 2021)

There were no questions on the COA report.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

AGENDA

21-0694

Certificate of Appropriateness to install four framed murals on the south elevation at 7 S Broadway (City of Aurora- 21-0694 / AU22/3-21.260-FCOA - JM - Ward 2)

Mrs. Morgan said this is a Certificate of Appropriateness to install four framed murals on the south elevation at 7 S. Broadway. I'm just going to bring up the pictures to just remind us where we are. We are at Skinny Park. You recall, a couple of months ago we came forward with renovations that the city was wanting to do through this area, including having like some outdoor recreation activities and some future plans for it. One of those did call for murals. Now we are coming forward with those murals. This one will be four framed murals, so they will be within a frame that will be attached to the walls. The walls are brick. Originally, this had a building here, so it was never exposed. They are made so that they can be changed out. To actually describe the murals, I'm just going to turn it over to Jennifer Evans, the Director of Public Art.

Ms. Evans said these murals are, the content of them is representing countries of origin of some Aurora residents. This began, a couple, maybe 3 or 4 years ago, I was trying to figure out to how to represent Luxembourgers, so I came across vintage postage stamps of old rose catalogs from Luxemburg that they are known for. These are four stamps that the Mayor chose from a selection I gave him. So we have Greece, Luxemburg, Brazil and Kenya. Part of that was based on what the imagery was and what we'd like to do is have these up for two years and then switch them out to represent other cultures potentially. Payment just went through today for the designer. It went through the RFQ process, so we are paying for the graphic design, so just the images that are going to be printed. They'll be printed at Frank's Digital, 8 feet by 12 feet in size each. Then they will be inserted into wooden frames that are being built for this that will be bolted into the mortar on 7 S. Broadway. The other element of these is that they will hold augmented reality. A payment also went through just today, significant because there is no design to show you. So the augmented reality, there will either be a QR code or it will be the near communication technology, meaning you put your phone up to it, code or not, and it reads that, the app reads it, and you can see through your phone this augmented experience. There's 3-D animation, so the roses are blooming out bigger and toward you, that kind of thing. We have a contract to have that hosted for two years and then we'd like to do new designs so that it's really engaging for the community for these two years and then we keep then engaged by renewing it. Any questions about that?

Chairman Zine said what were the sizes again?

Ms. Evans said they will be 8 feet high by 12 feet wide.

Mr. Palmquist said are these the back images, or these are going to be used to be...

Ms. Evans said these images are going to be, as you can see, they are portrait orientation of maybe a square, so they need to be landscape orientation. Pele and the lion will be like the same, and then there will be the same kind of fonts, maybe like the little price of the postage stamp, but it is going to be laid out in a contemporary fashion. It will have a vintage feel to it and it will be obviously a representation of this stamp, but it will be wider for our use. It's a huge wall, so even these 12 foot banners are kind of dwarfed on the wall, so we are trying to get as much as we can for our

money. Printing them any wider than 8 feet brings it to a whole other budget, so 8 by 12 it is.

Mr. Castrejon said so the file that they are printed from is what, a Vector, to get some clarity?

Ms. Evans said yes. I'm not the one doing it. We hired a graphic designer, so he'll take care of all that for us and then we'll get those printed locally.

Mr. Castrejon said so you will be approving the clarity, meaning you are asking a lot to from this to...

Ms. Evans said yes, and I've already talked to the printing company. I won't let that happen on my watch.

MOTION OF APPROVAL WAS MADE BY: Fawn Clarke-Peterson

Motion SECONDED BY: Karen Christensen

AYES: Fernando Castrejon, Karen Christensen, Fawn Clark-Peterson, Brian Failing, Seth Hoffman, Jeff Palmquist, Charlie Zine

NAYS: None

A motion was made by Mrs. Clarke-Peterson, seconded by Mrs. Christensen, that this agenda item be approved and appealed to the Building, Zoning, and Economic Development Committee, on the agenda for 9/29/2021. The motion carried.

[21-0696](#)

Certificate of Appropriateness to paint a mural on the north elevation at 13 S Broadway (City of Aurora- 21-0696 / AU22/3-21.261-FCOA - JM - Ward 2)

Mrs. Morgan said this is for a Certificate of Appropriateness to paint a mural on the north elevation at 13 S. Broadway. Again, this is Skinny Park. The mural will be 40 feet wide by approximately 28 feet tall. It will be on the second and third stories, so not to the first story in case that there will be additional openings for a restaurant or another use in the future. The wall, as you can see is not the historic materials. This, again, there was a building, so it wasn't exposed either. To actually describe it, I'll had it off to Jen.

Ms. Evans said so for both of these projects, despite them starting in a couple of weeks, we don't have designs for them completed just yet because the budget was passed in the middle of July as opposed to New Year's like everything we do at this time of year for public art. This also went through the RFQ process. This is a sample of the artist's work from a few years ago. She does extremely large scale work. She has two pieces in the United States. The rest of her work is in Europe and maybe some in the Middle East and Asia. She is from the Netherlands. This is the first, well it is kind of the second celebrity artist that we've brought. In 2018 Bunnie Reiss was an international artist. This is our first international artist, so that's a whole other can or worms, but really excited. You can kind of see the detail here. So this is all with spray paint and you can see the scale of her standing in front of it. You can get an idea of the scale and the realism. Her process is that for the first week she'll be here in town getting to know us, meeting people from all over the community and learning what our character is and then choosing a model to do a photo shoot of an Auroran or two for the design. It is quite specific to Aurora. The finalized design wouldn't exist anyway until she starts it. Of course, at the very least, that will go past the Mayor

before she gets on the scaffolding. Also, she does a lot of emotion in her pieces, so I ask specifically before we hired her if she can make them look not miserable. We did discuss that. We're going to do as much of the wall as we can, so a good 40 foot wide. Again, those buildings are like 200 feet. They are huge.

Chairman Zine said I think they are like 160 feet.

Ms. Evans said we'll have a good 1/3 of it covered and it will be all the way up to Broadway. It will start at Broadway and then go back 40 feet from there.

Chairman Zine said what is the surface of that wall now?

Ms. Evans said what's that Styrofoam stuff called?

Mr. Sieben said EFIS.

Ms. Evans so it is in fairly decent condition. There is one gash. Also a fun fact, I'm in regular conversation with Jason Bauer and Trevor about making sure that how we do the lights, the string lights that are going across there, are going to be. They're going to maximize the aesthetics of the mural, so that's something that we're really paying close attention to. We may end up getting spotlights installed on 7 S. Broadway so that all looks as professional as possible.

Chairman Zine said so this is going to be multiple people, one or two?

Ms. Evans said one or two. When we did the parking lot thing a couple of weeks ago, which was an enormous success for the community, these are some of the graffiti kids who were there and I thought that might be kind of a nice idea to represent youth that's very a-political and likeable and happy.

Chairman Zine said what's the artist's name?

Ms. Evans said Judith De Leeuw.

Ms. Christensen said I have a question. The QR codes, or the ability to hold your phone up, will give you some explanation, but is there going to be any other method of getting word out about the artist, the selection process, and I don't mean just a press release? I'm thinking about some kind of, you know when you go to a museum and there's interpretive signage?

Ms. Evans said yes. They'll be plaqued. We're in conversations with different tech groups to see what the best value is and we're discussing different technologies that you can access videos of them making and stories about how it came together and stories of the community and why we chose this. The artist can have an artist statement or video. It is endless.

Ms. Christensen said okay, excellent.

Mr. Palmquist said I have a question. You mentioned about spray paint. Obviously, this is special paint. What's the lifecycle of the paint and/or maybe that will outlast the lifecycle of the presence of the artwork in the community and can you speak to that a little bit?

Ms. Evans said I think that's something that's kind of paradigm changing how we think about public art. It's not supposed to be forever. So maybe this will be up for 20 years, or maybe 10 years and maybe we don't want it anymore because the function of that space will change. As we put up murals on other walls as well, they are intended to be refreshed. We can always paint over them. They are this engaging experience for the community. It's almost like it doesn't matter, so for the amount of money we are spending and for the quality of the mural and for the passive marketing opportunity of this particular piece, I would expect that it will be up for at least 10 years and then it will be sealed with industry standard. What we have is the best. A few coats of Clean Coat. That seals it from UV rays as well as the graffiti and all of that. That extends the longevity as well.

Mr. Castrejon said so what we've seen, her previous installations are all in the grey tones with the aqua accent. Is that what we're...

Ms. Evans said yes. So we are looking for her to do her style.

Mr. Castrejon said more specifically for coloring style. Is that what we're getting?

Ms. Evans said yes, the black and white. What I'm looking for, what the master plan is for public art is to have these. This year we've got one. Next year maybe we can have two and the following year we can have three. It is kind of a subculture to know who the celebrity muralists are around the world, but the quality is unmistakable and as we get to know these, you can see these recognizable styles all over the world. For a small city in the Midwest it is not as typical to have these pieces. There's a city in Arkansas, it is the second largest city in Arkansas, it is 80,000 population, Fort Smith. For 6 or 7 years now they've had a mural festival and they have the biggest stars and it's done so much for their economic development and raising property standards. I would never know what Fort Smith was, but I know all about Fort Smith now because they have these great murals. It's like these are like a signature style, so it's like we are collecting, we're building this outdoor art museum.

Chairman Zine said I do love the mural on the 5 E. Galena.

Ms. Evans said 105, yes. That will also get that near field communication or QR code for augmented reality as well.

MOTION OF APPROVAL WAS MADE BY: Brian Failing

Motion SECONDED BY: Jeff Palmquist

AYES: Fernando Castrejon, Karen Christensen, Fawn Clark-Peterson, Brian Failing, Seth Hoffman, Jeff Palmquist, Charlie Zine

NAYS: None

A motion was made by Mr. Failing, seconded by Mr. Palmquist, that this agenda item be Forwarded to the Building, Zoning, and Economic Development Committee, on the agenda for 9/29/2021. The motion carried.

PENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Morgan said I don't really have any updates, but if you kind of look around, there are things happening in downtown. The Hobbs Building has front facades pulled off

and finally on the exterior you are seeing things happening. The Terminal Building was written up recently in the newspaper. It is a lot further along on the inside from what I've been told. From the outside it still looks like they have a way to go, but they've done a lot of work on the interior from what I've been told. The Keystone, I think, is almost close to being done.

Mr. Castrejon said not related to these great projects, any truths to the possibility of the old Long John Silvers on Lake Street becoming a Starbucks?

Mr. Sieben said it is approved as of 5:00 p.m. today. It is approved.

Chairman Zine said I'll just add that I had a chance to go through the Hobbs Building last week and it was a pleasure talking to Renee, the project manager, because he talks like a real preservationist. He pointed out that they were extending the elevator shaft in the back. They saved all these bricks from the exterior so it will blend in. He pointed out all the new beams that they put in. They are laminated, but they are the exact same dimensions of the existing ones. The tin ceilings and B-Board ceilings they are going to save. If there's not enough, they will replicate for the other rooms. It was nice to hear him talk to that degree of attention.

Mr. Hoffman said have they submitted plans to depict the reconstructive dome and the parapet?

Mrs. Morgan said they did submit plans for the reconstructed dome and the rest of the parapet. Originally we had approved they were going to do, and this is going through preservation tax credits, so SHPO has also been reviewing it, they were going to do like a cornice along the original ones on the turret portion, but they were cornices along the bays, not across the entire façade, which was historically pictured along the entire top. Right now we are in discussions with them. It is coming up over \$100,000. We are working with them on figuring out what type of materials they bid it for and possibly maybe allowing some alterations to that. The SHPO was not requiring that at all. That was something staff had originally pushed was to try to get at least some of the cornice work on the bays. So hopefully we'll get it, or we might have to alter it a little bit for a cost sake.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Christensen, seconded by Mr. Castrejon, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by voice vote. Chairman Zine adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

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