



City of North Port

4970 City Hall Blvd
North Port, FL 34286

Meeting Minutes - Draft City Commission Joint Meeting

CITY COMMISSIONERS

Debbie McDowell, Mayor

Jill Luke, Vice Mayor

Christopher Hanks, Commissioner

Pete Emrich, Commissioner

Vanessa Carusone, Commissioner

APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Peter Lear, City Manager

Amber L. Slayton, City Attorney

Heather Taylor, Interim City Clerk

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

6:00 PM

City Commission Chambers

with Art Advisory Board

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor McDowell called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: 3 - Mayor Debbie McDowell, Vice Mayor Jill Luke and Commissioner Pete Emrich

Absent: 2 - Commissioner Christopher Hanks and Commissioner Vanessa Carusone

Also Present:

Art Advisory Board Members: Vice Chair Jamie Nicastro, Board Members: Dee Dee Gozion, Holly Loos, Pauline Stickler, Zoey Schorzmann, Samantha Parkinson, Cynthia Shelton, and former Chair Laura Pucci.

City Manager Peter Lear, City Attorney Amber Slayton, City Clerk Heather Taylor, Recording Secretary Susan Hale, Public Works Director Julie Bellia, Planning Division Manager Nicole Galehouse, and Police Chief Todd Garrison.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice Chair Nicastro.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Emrich, seconded by Vice Mayor Luke, to approve the Agenda as presented. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Mayor McDowell, Vice Mayor Luke and Commissioner Emrich

Absent: 2 - Commissioner Hanks and Commissioner Carusone

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

3. PRESENTATIONS: TIME LIMIT OF 15 MINUTES

[20-2684](#)

Presentation of the Gopher Tortoise Sculpture Project and Possible Action to Approve Laura Pucci to Continue to Work with the Art Advisory Board as the Project Manager for the Gopher Tortoise Sculpture Project After Her Term as an Art Advisory Board Member Expires on October 9, 2020

Ms. Pucci introduced the item and spoke to project components, the artist's stipend for the work, sponsors to help defray costs, possible promotional costs and activities, size reference, example of a turtle, possible parade, and new Venice project in the works.

Mr. Lear spoke to the Art Board's budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

Discussion ensued regarding utilizing art in public places funds for the tortoise project, a base being included for each piece and anchoring the base securely, proposed locations, business sponsorships, shipping costs divided into tiers, approximate weight, permanent placement outside of businesses, concern with longevity of the pieces, maintenance, tortoises being user friendly, a pilot program, call to artists being widespread, an artist/business joint partnership, holding a tortoise GPS hunt, and base requirements included in the call to artists.

Ms. Slayton spoke to legal technicalities regarding code provisions, possibly amending the Code to accommodate the scope of duties, allowing non board member to act as a project manager and concern with potential sunshine violations, and forming a subcommittee by resolution.

Mr. Lear spoke to City efforts to find a new liaison, navigating through a government procurement process, and moving the project forward with City Manager's oversight.

Discussion continued concerning public art parameters, changing Code to accommodate the project, and project implementation.

Ms. Slayton spoke to City Code relating to art in public places sections being outside the scope of Art Advisory Board's empowerment, creating ad hoc committees and delegation of responsibilities, Commission direction that City Manager work with staff, and the Art Advisory Board making parameters for the project.

Mr. Lear suggested options to handle the logistics of the project and a six month time frame for a preliminary decision, and amending the budget to include the art project.

There was a consensus to authorize the gopher tortoise with a base as a public art project within the City of North Port, limiting it to 25 tortoises.

There was a consensus to set a budget of \$37,000 with a 10% contingency fund.

There was a consensus that the project include North Port schools, businesses, and the Chamber of Commerce.

Ms. Galehouse spoke to developing a methodology for the Art Board's Strategic Plan's overall plan including cost, and end goals.

There was a consensus to review the gopher tortoise project as a Commission agenda item in six months or sooner.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Luke, seconded by Commissioner Emrich, to direct the City Manager to move forward with the project recommended by the Art Advisory Board, working with Advisory Board Members as needed, to produce a final draft for the program, and to include the consensuses that have been brought forth.

Yes: 3 - Mayor McDowell, Vice Mayor Luke and Commissioner Emrich

Absent: 2 - Commissioner Hanks and Commissioner Carusone

4. GENERAL BUSINESS:

20-2682

Discussion and Possible Action to Approve the Proposed Logo for Art Advisory Board Documents

Ms. Pucci introduced the item.

Ms. Slayton spoke to an Advisory Board having their own logo.

Discussion ensued regarding using the City logo as it is for Advisory Boards.

No action was taken on this item.

20-2683

Discussion and Possible Action to Approve the Art Advisory Board Strategic Plan

Ms. Pucci introduced the item including the preliminary projects, native flora and fauna theme, artists being full or part-time residents of Florida, a quarterly art exhibit at City Hall, objectives, City Hall annual art schedule, Arts in the Hall details, 5-year anticipated project timeline, the gopher tortoise project, and the Board project workbook explained.

Ms. Slayton spoke to art being owned by the City with respect to what is paid by the public art account, and an Advisory Board's process and procedure booklet must be consistent with the Code.

Discussion ensued regarding focusing on the tortoise project prior to additional art projects, doing the 65th anniversary project next, the Art Board developing a "face" for each Activity Center, and direction to City Manager to update Art Board legislation after new Commissioners are elected.

Mr. Lear spoke to an agenda item to discuss expanding responsibilities of the Board.

Ms. Slayton suggested having a discussion including a draft ordinance to expedite things.

There was a consensus to direct the City Attorney to work with the City Clerk and City Manager to bring back an ordinance for first reading after the General Election, to change the Code for the Art Advisory Board with general ideas and suggestions incorporated in the ordinance, and reviewing the duties of the other Advisory Boards.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Vice Mayor Luke distributed a call to artists letter regarding a mural celebrating the first 1,000 days of a child's life.

Discussion ensued regarding providing mural details for the muralist.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor McDowell adjourned the meeting at 8:08 p.m.

City of North Port, Florida

By: _____
Debbie McDowell, Mayor

Attest: _____
Heather Taylor, City Clerk

Minutes approved at the Commission Regular Meeting this ____ day of _____, 2020.