**TO:** Honorable Mayor & Members of the North Port Commission

**FROM:** A. Jerome Fletcher II, ICMA-CM, MPA, City Manager

**TITLE**: Review and Approval of the Art Advisory Board Recommendation for a Piece of Art to be Placed Near Walgreen’s in Heron Creek at a Cost Not to Exceed $45,000.

**Recommended Action**

Approve the Art Advisory Board recommendation for a piece of art to be placed near Walgreen’s in Heron Creek at a cost not to exceed $45,000.

**Background Information**

During the City Commission Regular Meeting on March 2, 2021, Commission consensus was provided to “direct staff to remove the Roseate Spoonbill Sculpture and to store it pending further Commission discussion”. The Art Advisory Board was tasked with finding an alternative piece of art to be placed in the location. On December 14, 2021, the Art Advisory Board brought a piece entitled “Future Fish” to Commission for approval after receiving 14 submissions through a call for artists. A motion was made to “direct staff to use $47,785 from the fiscal year 2022 budget, revenue account number 001-0000-324-62-05, to purchase the future fish art sculpture by Donald Gialanella to be located at the northwest intersection of Price Boulevard and Sumter Boulevard”. The motion failed 2 to 3. After further discussion, the following motion, as amended, was approved: “to direct the City Manager and City Attorney to review the legalities of removing and replacing artwork at this location and task the Art Advisory Board to review materials and focus on low maintenance art to be placed at the same location and the artwork be oriented to provide maximum visibility of the piece from the intersection. The motion pass 5 to 0.

On April 5 ,2022 City Attorney provided the Commission with an update regarding the legalities of removing and replacing artwork near Walgreens in Heron Creek. It was determined that the City may consider other locations within the designated key intersection of Sumter and Price Boulevards for placement of public art. Any new proposal for placement requires the Heron Creek developer’s approval. The property owner’s

approval is also required for legal access on private property and is best documented in the form of an

ingress and egress easement granting the City permission to install and maintain the public art. At the May 9, 2023 Art Advisory Board Meeting, Mike Halligan, local artist, presented an overview of a sculpture proposal to be placed at the aforementioned location. This piece would be created through the utilization of salvaged materials from Hurricane Ian. The inspiration behind the piece symbolizes the strength of the North Port community rebuilding in light of tragedy. Mr. Halligan will be using a solid log of either mahogany or eucalyptus that was recovered in North Port following Hurricane Ian. The sculpture will be mounted vertically to a thick aluminum base that will be bolted to anchors in the ground. At the top of this log, there will be anodized aluminum that will wind its way around the log and work its way up into flowing metal hibiscus flowers that will also be anodized. A bronze plaque will be mounted on the piece that speaks to the meaning behind the artwork. The wood will be coated fully with specially formulated outdoor epoxy and all of the aluminum will be anodized to protect it from the elements.

After receiving a quote for the sculpture, researching materials, and providing feedback on the piece, the Art Advisory Board made the following recommendation at the December 19, 2023, Art Advisory Board meeting, “to bring forward [*the proposal*] to Commission for approval and have a range of $41,550, but not exceed $45,000”. As per the proposal, Mr. Halligan is requesting a deposit of $24,930.00 prior to beginning work. The completion of this piece would take place at Halligan Design Production Company and then be transported to the applicable location near Walgreen’s at Price Boulevard and Sumter Boulevard when the piece is ready for installation.

**Strategic Plan**

Quality of Life

**Financial Impact**

Per the proposal submitted, the cost for Mr. Halligan’s services are $41,550 which includes the costs of materials, labor, installation, and bronze plaque. An additional $3,450 is being requested by staff as contingency for any unanticipated expenses associated with the project. As of September 30, 2023, the current accumulated balance in the accounts related to Public Art #001-0000-324-62-05 (a.k.a. the ‘Art Fund’) is $200,468.36. Upon approval of this item, staff will work with Public Works Facility Maintenance and Finance to request a budget amendment allocating funds to account 001-0760-573-49-22 for the approved project expenses.

**Procurement**

The art services being procured are exempt from competition pursuant to Sec. 2-403 (a)(3)c of the City Procurement Code. Applicable forms will be submitted to Procurement pending project approval.

**Attachments**:

1. Halligan Proposal
2. Legal Review of Placement of Artwork Near Walgreens in Heron Creek
3. 2021-03-02 City Commission Regular Meeting Minutes
4. 2021-12-14 City Commission Regular Meeting Minutes
5. 2023-05-09 Art Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
6. 2023-12-19 Art Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

**Prepared by:** Shelby Mendelson, Recreation Manager

**Department Director:** Sandy Pfundheller, Director