

CITY COUNCIL CONFERENCE MINUTES

July 28, 2009

The City Council of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met Conference in the Municipal Building Conference Room at 5:35 p.m. on the 28th day of July, 2009, and notice and agenda of the meeting were posted in the Municipal Building at 201 West Gray and the Norman Public Library at 225 North Webster 48 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

PRESENT: Councilmembers Atkins, Butler, Dillingham,
Griffith, Kovach, Mayor Pro Tem Cubberley

ABSENT: Councilmembers Ezzell, Quinn, and Mayor
Rosenthal

DISCUSSION REGARDING AN ARTWORK PROPOSAL FOR THE EAST MAIN STREET ROUNDABOUT AS RECOMMENDED BY THE PUBLIC ARTS BOARD AND NORMAN ARTS COUNCIL.

Mr. Steve Lewis, City Manager, said Mr. Jud Foster, Director of Parks and Recreation, and Mr. Larry Walker, Chairman of the Public Arts Board (PAB), had been working on this presentation and Mr. Walker would be providing an overview of this proposal and if Council is supportive of the proposal, it would advance forward for Council approval in a future Council meeting.

Mr. Walker said Mr. Shawn O'Leary, Director of Public Works, came to one of the first PAB meetings and proposed the concept of a piece of public art in the East Main Street Roundabout. Mr. Walker said the PAB's mission is to expand the collection of public art owned by the City of Norman and this seemed to be an ideal first major project. He said the purchase of the artwork would be funded through donations made through City of Norman utility bills and private fundraising and these funds are placed in the Arts in Public Places Fund which was set up through the adoption of Ordinance No. O-0807-5 and maintained by the Norman Arts Council (NAC). He said PAB requested proposals from artists through various media outlets with a deadline for submissions of December 15, 2008, and 62 proposals were received. A Selection Advisory Panel of twelve people was formed representing different types of expertise and socio-economic levels around the City of Norman. He said the panel reviewed the proposals until they were able to select three finalists and the finalists were paid a \$500 honorarium for them to bring a model of their proposal for review. Those models were put on public display at the Norman Public Library for two weeks and over 100 people filled out evaluations to score and rank the models. The PAC recommended a finalist to the NAC and approved the finalist on June 19, 2009. He said the piece selected entitled "Indian Grass" by Juan and Patricia Navarettes from Taos, New Mexico, is 29 feet tall which is about three stories tall, and constructed from Corten steel, stainless steel, and Dichroic glass. The piece will be treated with anti-graffiti surface and will be placed in the opening in the center of the roundabout which is 53 feet wide. The contract for the piece is a three-way contract between Juan and Patricia Navarettes, the City of Norman, and NAC. He said upon completion, PAB and NAC will be paying the artists and the City of Norman becomes the actual owner of the art piece. The artists will design, fabricate, transport, and install the work at their own expense; ensure that the work is substantially similar to the model presented to the City and NAC on June 19, 2009, when the art piece was selected; ensure that the base design is engineered appropriately to support the completed work; provide the City and NAC with documentation confirming approval of the base by an engineer registered in the State of Oklahoma; and obtain a building permit and an electrical permit from the City of Norman. The City shall determine the final arrangement and placement of work and shall pay for all site preparation including base and landscaping prior to erection of work. Estimated costs are \$5,000 for the base and \$20,000 for the landscaping. Landscaping would need to be designed to deter vehicles from driving onto the property and will include plant materials, irrigation, and electrical service to the site. The artwork is fabricated offsite and it will take approximately one week to install. The artwork will not require routine maintenance. He said the stonework required for the site is quite expensive raising the costs for landscaping to approximately \$60,000 to \$100,000 but the PAB has found a donor for the stonework with the City transporting the stones, which are located a few miles away. The work must be completed and installed no

later than January 15, 2010, with approval and acceptance by the City and NAC. The NAC will pay for the artwork and transfer ownership to the City of Norman. The warranty states that the artwork be free of defects in materials and workmanship for two years with the artists retaining the copyright to the work and the City retaining the right to reproduce photographic images for non-commercial purposes. He said the total is \$60,000 paid by the Norman Arts Council with \$15,000 being paid upon execution of the contract; \$15,000 upon 50% completion of the artwork; \$10,000 upon final fabrication; and \$20,000 upon final acceptance. He said the City may remove the work from its collection should it ever represent a safety hazard. The artist will provide the required insurance and will indemnify the City harmless until final acceptance of the work.

Councilmember Griffith asked if the piece would be susceptible to wind damage because of its height. Mr. Walker said the piece will have to meet engineering specifications and this type of artwork had been produced in Florida and had sustained a hurricane.

Councilmember Butler asked how the area would be irrigated. Mr. Jud Foster, Director of Parks and Recreation, said sleeves would be put in under the street for irrigation and electricity. The irrigation would be a drip system on a timer with a moisture detector.

Councilmember Kovach asked how the area would be illuminated and Mr. Walker said four floodlights would be placed strategically for night lighting and would shine directly on the piece.

Councilmember Kovach asked what types of maintenance would be needed for public art in general. Mr. Walker said bronze pieces need to be waxed and that it really depended on the metal. He said a lot of public art was now being done with a type of powder coating paint which is similar to the finish on a car and after a certain number of years there would be deterioration. He said this piece has no paint so it should be fairly maintenance free.

Councilmember Atkins asked if visibility to allow navigation through the roundabout had been taken into consideration during the planning of the landscaping. Mr. Walker said there are site lines that are determined and they were not obstructed.

Mr. Walker said the donations for public art from the utility bills do not generate enough money to purchase public artwork. He said \$900 was received last month and this was the most money received in any given month from utility bills since it started 18 months ago. He said PAB will need to find other avenues of funding to buy more art.

Items submitted for the record

1. PowerPoint presentation entitled, "Public Art at the East Main Roundabout" dated July 28, 2009

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor