

## **Nags Head Committee for Arts and Culture**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**November 20, 2017, 10 am**

**Nags Head Town Hall, Conference Room**

Committee Members Present: Ben Cahoon, Leslie Erickson, Kerry Oaksmith, Ginny Flowers, Peggy Saporito, Deputy Town Manager Andy Garman and Deputy Planning Director Kelly Wyatt.

Public Present: None.

Deputy Planning Director Kelly Wyatt opened the meeting and thanked everyone in attendance.

Committee member Kerry Oaksmith brought in her painted art mast, the committee began the meeting with several questions on her process and overwhelming compliments on how beautiful it was. Kerry noted that she had used sand paper to lightly sand the Dibond panel and prepped it with tinted gesso. She said by doing so the surface took the paint quite easily. She noted that the size of the panel made it somewhat awkward to paint as it had to be placed on saw horses.

Committee member Ben Cahoon is also painting an art mast. He updated the committee that his was not quite ready, he shared photos of his panel and noted that spray paint seemed to hold very well on the surface.

Committee member Peggy Saporito inquired about the need for a protective coating over the masts given that they will be outside and exposed to sunlight, rain, etc. Ben Cahoon and Kerry Oaksmith noted that the instructions provided pertain only to indoor use and that more research would be required as to how to preserve the masts in the outdoors.

The committee discussed potential ways to initiate this project once it was determined that the masts are sustainable in this environment. It was noted that we may consider soliciting artists to paint the masts as opposed to doing a call for artists. Once the masts are painted, maybe 8 or 10 to begin with, they would be displayed at Dowdy Park where the Town would hold a social with food and drink and the community and local businesses could view the paintings and bid on them. Committee member Ginny Flowers also added that it might be nice to display them for a week and have a silent auction taking place throughout the week. Once completed, the Town of Nags Head Public Works Department would handle constructing and installing the frames and hanging the masts at the locations of those who purchased them.

In considering the timeframe for the project, the committee felt it would be ideal to have a selection of artists for the December meeting. After identifying the artists they would like to pursue, a committee member would be selected to reach out to them and see if they would be willing to participate. Once all of the artists are selected, the committee would like to meet with them as a group in January, 2018 to

discuss the basics. The selected artists would then have February and March to work on the masts with a tentative goal of having them completed no later than April and scheduling of the community social/silent auction in May, 2018.

The committee was all in agreement that it would be wonderful to have a mast completed by Glenn Eure. Ginny Flowers noted that she would mention it to him and Kerry Oaksmith stated that she would help prep his panel if he was interested.

Prior to meeting with the selected artists the committee and staff will work together to create a document explaining the concept, how to prep the panels and all of the lessons learned from Ben and Kerry as they painted their masts.

The committee noted that Kerry's panel would be ideal to be installed at the new Bonnett Street Bath House, currently under construction. Deputy Town Manager, Andy Garman noted that he would work with Public Works to have it installed. Peggy Saporito said once it was up it would likely generate a lot of intrigue and interest. Ben Cahoon stated that he had already had some preliminary discussions with Roberta Thuman, the Town's Public Information Officer, about creating a story of this art mast project, photo documenting the entire process, and creating an informational piece for the Town. The committee was all in agreement that this was great idea and we should keep this in mind, taking as many photos as we can throughout. Several committee members said they would research and see if they could find any old photos of the original masts at the Dare County History Center.

Committee members discussed possibly having a plaque or something similar affixed to the panels noting the artist describing what their inspiration was.

Deputy Town Manager Andy Garman updated the committee that he had not yet heard anything from the Kelly Family Fund or the Don and Catherine Bryan Cultural Series regarding funding of the Dowdy Park entryway feature. He noted that he had a brief conversation with Juliane Kelly and she indicated that their committee had not met yet to discuss. It was the consensus of the committee to write a formal letter requesting the entry way funding with original signatures of all the committee members to be delivered to Mr. Mike Kelly and Mr. Bob Muller. Staff noted they would draft the letter promptly and work with committee members to obtain the signatures.

Committee members then began continued discussion of the Farmers Market at Dowdy Park. Staff updated the committee that they had left voice messages and emails for a handful of fruit and vegetable producers that attend the Elizabeth City Farmers Market. The committee felt as though creating a set of rules for the market is priority and that giving Nags Head businesses and residents priority is very important. It was also noted that we may want to consider how to address requests from non-profits to be at the market. Committee member Leslie Erickson said she was very interested in helping provide children's music/entertainment and that she would begin to canvas local music teachers to see if they are interested in participating. The committee members expressed an eagerness to continue moving forward with the Farmers Market.

With no other items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 12:10 pm.