

Nags Head Committee for Art and Culture Meeting

July 17, 2017 Minutes

Nags Head Town Hall; Conference Room

Committee Members Present: Peggy Saporito, Ben Cahoon, Ginny Flowers, Lauren Evans and Deputy Planning Director Kelly Wyatt.

Public Present: Artist Mark Kasten and Artist Michael Davis.

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

At the previous meeting the Art and Culture Committee decided to invite two artists to interview for the Dowdy Park Entry feature art piece. Mr. Mark Kasten was in attendance and appreciative of the opportunity. Mr. Kasten addressed many questions from the committee:

- Timeframe for designing conceptual drawings for review? Mr. Kasten stated that at a minimum he would need 2-4 weeks to prepare detailed drawings, a minimum of 3 months for fabrication and at least a week for installation – Mr. Kasten estimated 4-6 months from start to finish.
- Type of media you envision using? Mr. Kasten stated that he intended to use treated wood (drift wood appearance) and glulams for visual consistency with the existing pavilion.
- What considerations have been given towards dealing with Outer Banks elements? Mr. Kasten stated that he would be using treated wood and the structure would be engineered to meet wind loads, etc.
- Will you need assistance with the installation of your project? Mr. Kasten noted that he would assume responsibility for the installation of his art piece.
- Will your piece be constructed at the park or at a different location and then installed? Mr. Kasten stated that he would fabricate the main members off-site. He stated that would need to rope off that area of park for a week or so for installation. This should help with the safety of visitors during this process.

Mr. Kasten stated that the structure could be constructed of cedar or pine, sanded down and epoxied. He noted that the lettering on the structure was open for discussion but he had considered some type of raised metal. The committee discussed potential ways to reduce the inevitable urge to climb on it and specifics of how it would be anchored down. Lighting of the structure was also discussed and was noted as possibly a good opportunity to pay homage to the original Dowdy Park.

The committee expressed much interest in the proposed art piece and thanked Mr. Kasten for his interest, time and effort in attending the meeting and preparedness for the questions. Mr. Kasten excused himself from the remainder of the meeting.

The second artist invited to interview, Michael Davis, greeted the committee. Mr. Davis was asked several questions, the same as Mr. Kasten.

- Timeframe for designing conceptual drawings for review: Mr. Davis presented a mock-up of the design but was unsure of the timeframe needed from start to finish.
- Type of media you envision using: Mr. Davis stated the construction would be of corten steel that will patina over time and inhibit future rust.
- What considerations have been given for dealing with Outer Banks elements? Mr. Davis stated that the steel he would use is the same as what is used for bridges, that it does very well outdoors and will hold up to high winds.
- Will you need assistance with the installation of the project? Mr. Davis stated he would fabricate the structure himself but would likely need assistance with installation. He stated that if it needed a base, he would like the Town to help.
- Will your piece be built at the park or at a different location and then installed? Mr. Davis stated that the piece would be constructed at his home and installed at the park.
- Who will be responsible for safety of the visitors and the materials/tools of the artists in this process? Mr. Davis indicated that he assumed the Town would be responsible for the safety of the visitors after the installation.

In discussion with the committee Mr. Davis stated that the structure would be likely be about 13 feet tall. The committee inquired about safety and climb ability of the art piece. Mr. Davis stated that while there is a natural desire to climb public art the patina on the steel would likely come off onto the clothes of someone climbing it and that there could even be some discolored run-off after a rain. The committee discussed potentially constructing a large base for the piece so that it is inaccessible to climbing and constructing an indentation around it to hold any runoff and prevent it from staining the walkway. Mr. Davis noted that because of its design there would be little to no standing water on it which is beneficial in terms of reducing rust. The committee thanked Mr. Davis for his time and creativity and expressed how beautiful his proposal is. Mr. Davis excused himself from the remainder of the meeting.

The committee members discussed both proposals in depth in relation to the intent of the gateway/entry feature, the durability, safety and maintenance of the art piece. The committee arrived at the decision to proceed with the proposal presented by Mark Kasten. The committee felt that Mr. Kasten's proposal was more in line with the overall intent of the gateway however cited that Mr. Davis proposal was a true "art piece" and hoped that a dedicated space could be provided somewhere within the park in the future with the proper safeguards provided.

The committee discussed setting the next meeting date with consideration given to having it in the afternoon in hopes that better attendance would be achieved. The next meeting was set for August 21, 2017 at 5:30 pm.

With no additional items to discuss the meeting adjourned at 10:00 am.