

## **Nags Head Committee for Art and Culture Meeting**

**August 21, 2017 Minutes**

### **Nags Head Town Hall; Conference Room**

Committee Members Present: Ben Cahoon, Lauren Evans, Leslie Erickson, Kerry Oaksmith, Deputy Town Manager Andy Garman and Deputy Planning Director Kelly Wyatt.

Public Present: Artist Mark Kasten

Deputy Town Manager Andy Garman opened the meeting and thanked those in attendance.

Having selected Artist Mark Kasten to design, fabricate and install the Dowdy Park Entryway feature at the prior meeting, Mr. Kasten was in attendance to discuss further details of this proposal. Mr. Kasten expressed his sincere appreciation to be selected for the opportunity and eagerness to begin the process. Mr. Kasten presented a 3-D model of his art piece, a ribbed structure similar to a whalebone ribcage. He noted that the number of ribs (glulams) had been reduced from 19 to 15 to reduce costs. Considerations had been given to the width and height of the structure, the location of concrete footings, and a gravel base to deter climbing. The committee and Mr. Kasten discussed possible lighting opportunities such as running LED's on the underside of the arched ribs for a warm downward glow which would not hinder the dark sky desire of the Town. In discussing potential lighting, Mr. Kasten addressed the need for electrical conduit in this area. Town staff noted that running electrical wiring could be taken under consideration in the design and development of Phase II of the park.

The committee members discussed with Mr. Kasten potential signage opportunities ranging from wood, metal and acrylic. The committee felt a 3-D appearance offset from the wooden ribs would be nice to explore as well possible internal illumination. The committee members agreed that the art piece was beautiful and while lighting and signage will be nice, it stands alone quite handsomely. Mr. Kasten took the opportunity to show the committee how the ribs create very interesting and abstract shadows as light filters through.

Mr. Kasten inquired about the schedule, timeline, and funding for construction of the entry project. Deputy Town Manager Andy Garman updated the committee on the status of receiving potential monies through the Kelly Family Foundation and the Don and Catherine Bryan Cultural Series. The committee acknowledged that signage and acknowledgement to the two funding organizations should be affixed on or near the art piece.

Mr. Garman discussed the next steps for Phase II of Dowdy Park noting that if the entry were ready to be constructed and installed prior to Phase II, it could certainly be done so independently.

Mr. Garman provided the committee with a dimensioned rendering of the Art is the Heart of Dowdy Park Instagram sign. Committee members requested a few revisions to the design and language and asked that a new rendering be provided for their review prior to Adam Baldwin producing it.

The committee then discussed the status of the Art Mast project. Andy Garman and Ben Cahoon discussed a product which they had researched that might function nicely as the mast panel, an aluminum panel with a polyethylene core called Dibond. The committee recommended that a few panels be purchased and have someone create a piece of art to see how functional it is, if it will withstand the elements, and what the longevity will be. Ben Cahoon noted that he would be happy to design a "test" panel as did Kerry Oaksmith. The committee discussed the process and options for getting the art mast project underway including the selection of the artists to paint the masts, how to display the masts, and how to distribute them throughout the Gallery Row area and the Town.

The committee briefly discussed creating a future outlook for the art and culture committee budget including concerts and entertainment at Dowdy Park and exploring a Farmers Market at Dowdy Park. The committee discussed potential days and times for the market and a desire not to compete with nearby farmers markets and to be cognizant of the concerns of brick and mortar businesses.

Staff noted that they would continue to research what would be required to begin a farmers market at Dowdy Park as well as go ahead and purchase the Dibond panels in order to begin working on the art mast project.

Staff discussed with the members setting a monthly meeting date and time that would hopefully suit everyone's schedule in order to gain more attendance. It was determined that the third Monday of each month at 10:30 am would work best.

With no additional items for discussion, the next meeting was set for September 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am. The committee adjourned at 7:00 pm.