



Design Committee Meeting
Thursday, November 5, 2020
City Council Chambers
9:00 a.m.

Minutes

Call to order: Cassie Ragan, Chairwoman

Roll Call: Chelsea Tallo Little, DDD Executive Director

Chris Bankston	Absent
Tara Bennett	Present
Roy Dufreche	Present
Tom Pistorius	Present
Cassie Ragan	Present
Jeffrey Smith	Present
Pierre Theriot	Present

Old Business:

1. Approval of the minutes from October 1, 2020.
Pierre Theriot made a motion, seconded by Roy Dufreche, to accept the minutes from October 1, 2020 as written.

Chris Bankston	Absent
Tara Bennett	Yes
Roy Dufreche	Yes
Tom Pistorius	Yes
Cassie Ragan	Yes
Jeffrey Smith	Yes
Pierre Theriot	Yes

Motion carried.

New Business:

1. Art in Downtown Presentation by Landin Petz
Landin Petz, downtown Hammond resident, presented his ideas for installing public art throughout the district. Petz proposed conversations with downtown business owners to invite local artists to create murals on their buildings, as well as incorporating light projection art in public spaces. Chelsea Tallo Little clarified that through initial discussion with the Historic District, the only murals that could possibly be allowed would be located on buildings that have already painted brick and do not face a main road. Roy Dufreche suggested the formation of a committee that focuses solely on public art, while Pierre Theriot and Cassie Ragan suggested sponsoring a contest with the art department at SLU.



2. Urban Park Project

Cassie Ragan opened up the floor for public comment.

Denise Austin, current Farmers Market vendor, expressed her support for the possible improvements to the area at #2 W. Thomas Street, specifically mentioning the much needed leveling of the ground for safety reasons.

Melanie Ricketts expressed her support for improvement at #2 W. Thomas, as long as certain legal parameters are followed. Ricketts expressed the following concerns and committee members addressed them as follows:

- What will be done to preserve or properly relocate the on-site monument?
 - Chelsea Tallo Little explained that there are currently no plans to move the monument.
- Why does this area need to be developed/improved when two city parks are within walking distance?
 - Jeffrey Smith explained that this area is in desperate need of improvement, no matter what it may be used for in the future. Jeffrey Smith referenced the uneven ground, patchy grass, and parking issues.
- Legally, no structure can be built here.
 - Tom Pistorius explained that there are no plans to build any additional structure on this site.
 - Pierre Theriot clarified that exact legal requirements for the property according to the deed, which state that:
 - This plot can feature ONE public building (government or chamber led)
 - This plot must feature a historic monument (Stewart Monument)
 - This plot must be reserved for use as a public plaza
- Will this money be spent solely to improve the setting of the adjacent business (La Caretta)?
 - Cassie Ragan explained that the site in question is city property, and will not be altered or improved for a private business's use. It will ultimately be a place that attracts the public as a park.

Ryan Hagler, head chef of One Thirteen Restaurant and vendor of Farmers Market (Candlestick Bakery) expressed his trust in this committee to improve this area for the City of Hammond. Hagler expressed his dislike for the nearby dumpster and the uneven ground, and ultimately supports the immediate improvement of this area by this committee.

Jeffrey Smith made a motion, seconded by Pierre Theriot, to recommend to the Board of Directors that Roy Dufreche and Tom Pistorius be hired for the design of the Urban Park Project.

Chris Bankston	Absent
Tara Bennett	Yes
Roy Dufreche	Abstain
Tom Pistorius	Abstain
Cassie Ragan	Yes



Jeffrey Smith	Yes
Pierre Theriot	Yes

Motion carried.

3. Wayfinding Strategic Plan Updates

Chelsea Tallo Little gave an update on the progress of the design of the wayfinding signs, as the Master Plan presents a five-year plan for the design and installation of new way-finding signs throughout the district. Chelsea Tallo Little explained that 5 Stones Media has been contracted to design the graphics, which will be installed into the existing sign after completion. Chelsea Tallo Little also explained that Michelle Kendall is currently applying for a grant through America Walks specifically for this project.

4. Updating Design Guidelines/Set Working Session

Chelsea Tallo Little polled the committee for best dates/times for an upcoming working session. Committee members expressed the desire for a mid-day meeting time. Cassie Ragan suggested the addition of notes to the guidelines, specifically concerning the following items: murals/public art, outdoor cafes, sidewalks, etc.

Public Comment

-Adjournment

