

VISUAL ARTS JURY MEETING

October 3, 2023

The Visual Arts Jury held a meeting on Tuesday, October 03, 2023 at 12:00 p.m., at the T&P Depot located at 1101 N. 1st Abilene, TX. Jury members present were Lynn Barnett, Chair Director, Mike Warren, Pam Tippen, Caleb Dulock, Kathie Walker-Millar, Grayson Allred and Collin Zalesak. Parks & Recreation staff present were Lesli Andrews, Director Parks & Recreation, Chris Gibson, Assistant Director Parks & Recreation, Jesus Coronado, Parks Division Manager, Trent Dietz, Legal and Janina Aguero, Secretary.

Lynn Barnett called the meeting to order at 12:14pm.

Acceptance of Minutes from March 27, 2023: Mike Warren moved the minutes to be approved. Pam Tippen seconded, with all in favor the motion passed.

Discussion on Approving and Accepting Sculptures for Public Display: Lynn Barnett discussed the KittyCorn and Unicorn sculpture concept to be displayed at Storybook Garden for CALF 2024. Lynn gave a background on the author and illustrator, stating that this sculpture is not specifically from one of the books and was created just for this display. Lynn informed the board that this piece would be made of bronze and would be 5ft scale and 18 inches wide for seating.

Public Comment:

Tammy Fogle, Abilene resident, stated she is involved with making sure books are safe and suitable for children, is familiar with the book series and believes this is about gender identity and grooming children. Ms. Fogle is against the KittyCorn sculpture.

Barbara Berry, Abilene resident, stated she is against this sculpture. Ms. Berry said unicorns are not real and the story is harmful and teaches children not to accept themselves.

Jenna and David Sprout, Abilene residents, stated they are against this sculpture. Mrs. Sprout said she doesn't understand why the board would choose a book about transgender and if it is chosen they will not attend CALF this year.

Molly Harless, Abilene resident, stated she is against the sculpture. Ms. Harless said this book series has a clear statement although the author is stating otherwise.


Donna Albus, Abilene resident, stated that she read the book cover to cover and didn't see any issues with this book. Ms. Albus said you can make anything reflect what you want to if you try hard enough. Ms. Albus is for the statue being placed.

Collin Zalesak made a motion to table the acceptance of this sculpture until the board is able to better review. Grayson Allred seconded the motion, with all in favor this sculpture was tabled for further review.

Lynn Barnett discussed the train sculpture proposed to be placed on the corner of City Hall. Lynn stated this sculpture is 144" long and 5 ft tall, made of bronze and weighing 2000 lbs. This sculpture was funded by a private donor.

Mike Warren made a motion to approve this sculpture. Collin Zalesak seconded the motion, with all in favor the motion carried.

Adjournment: Meeting Adjourned at 1:05pm


Chairperson


Secretary