

June 27, 2016

**LANDMARK AND HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
MINUTES**

The Landmark and Historic District Commission (LHDC) of the City of Florissant met at the Florissant City Hall on Monday June 27, 2016 in the 2nd floor conference room at 6:30 p.m., with Kent Miller presiding.

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

Introductions were made Kent Miller, Patty Sosa, Steve Frank all LHDC members, Phil Lum Building Commissioner and Dianne Lehmann, City of Florissant. Bryce Robinson our guest speaker from Jeske Sculpture Park and Curtis Gunn, a Florissant resident.

ROLL CALL

On roll call the following members were present: Kent Miller, Patty Sosa and Steve Frank; Gary Meyer came in at 6:45. Also in attendance were Dianne Lehmann, Recording Clerk and Philip Lum, Building Commissioner. A quorum being present, the Chair declared the Landmark and Historic District Commission (LHDC) was in session for the transaction of business.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Patty Sosa to accept the minutes as submitted. Motion was seconded by Steve Frank all approved.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Possible Grant project at Spanish Land Grant Park
Bryce Robinson Guest speaker from Ferguson**

Bryce Robinson is from Ferguson, graduate of Florissant Valley Community College, Art Institute of Chicago, and Washington University and has worked at Notre Dame and is currently a professor at Washington University to run their sculpture studio. Bryce does sculptures all day every day and he founded Jeske Sculpture Park, a 7 acre public sculpture park in Ferguson, MO. We show exhibitions of sculpture from all over the United States and rotate those exhibits every 2 years. This is a collaboration of a 5013C Corporation we set up and the City of Ferguson that has set up a Commission that selects the art works that are displayed.

Bryce explained that every year Ferguson rotates the money allocated to a different park. One particular year, Jeske Park was to be the recipient, so Bryce pitched the idea of a sculpture park to a neighborhood meeting and an idea was born. Bryce started the 501-C3 Corp as a way to solicit funds to help offset the cost of paying for the artwork. They had several large contributors that enabled them to attract artists. They legally changed the name of the city park to Jeske Sculpture Park. The park is open all the time and is free to the public. To use a city park for a sculpture park is very attractive to artist because the park will always be maintained. It will always get mowed, and will be patrolled by city employees, therefore less vandalism. City resources can help with placement of sculptures and providing a walking path. The park is accessible to all.

Bryce explained that people are very concerned about what kind of sculptures will be placed in the park. For this reason the sculptures are rotated out every 2 years. This keeps the park fresh and keeps people coming back. At this time Bryce presented a slide show of the 10 different sculptures from 8 different artist from 7 different states displayed in the park.

The City poured a 6x6 concrete pad 6" deep. All sculptures are anchored down and have a iron stand to display the name and artist information. The display stand was built by Bryce Robinson at a cost of around \$50.00.

At this time Bruce had a power point presentation on the 2014 collection. He then had a power point of the new 2016 collection that consisted of 10 different sculptures from 10 different artist from 7 different states. One of the biggest concerns was that of vandalism and not one piece got vandalized.

Fund raising for the 2016 exhibit has been challenging since the Michael Brown incident but the Park has persevered. Bryce said that the work for the first collection was primarily people that he knew and that did him a favor by exhibiting. The second exhibit was done thru selection by committee. Bryce called many people he knew and tried to get a good cross section of artist, African American, Native American and Hispanic.

The City of Ferguson offered a \$500.00 Honorarium for artists to participate. Insurance is covered by the City as well as heavy lifting equipment to set up the piece. The second exhibit was a themed exhibit. Discussion was had about how easy it would be to use various themes for Spanish Land Grant Park. Phil explained that some thought had gone into marking the park like the Old Town grid that Old Town Florissant is built on. We also talked about the fact that numerous graves are located in the park we are considering. Bryce spoke about how important it is to have the park dedicated and change the name to a sculpture park. Artist display work at a variety of venues and each are viewed differently; to show at a gallery rather than a museum or at a sculpture park rather than sculptures at a park.

When you are a sculpture there are 2 ways to make money. The first is to sell the piece the other is to show the piece for a fee. When you sell the piece you are responsible for your own insurance and moving and placing the piece. Most Cities offer a Honorarium of between \$1,000.00 and \$1,500.00 to be competitive and get multiple artists to submit applications.

At this time Phil Lum explained how we would like to see if grant funds are available to put together the plan or design for such a project at Spanish Land Grant Park. Bryce thought that Spanish Land Grant park was an ideal location for a sculpture park because of its roadside visibility. Bryce said one type of sculpture work that can be done is earthen sculpture, where the sculpture is made out of the earth as part of the landscape. This may not be possible because of the burial ground and graves that are currently on the ground.

Bryce suggested getting big pieces to start. That would really make a statement for our project to stand out and make it different than other municipalities. He said most larger pieces are commissioned at \$6,000.00 – \$10,000.00. Bryce said he is working on a new idea having 5 different municipalities participate and pay annual dues to rotate 25 different pieces of sculpture. This is in very early stages but we were given a handout to explain how it would work.

Everyone thanked Bryce for coming.

NEW BUSINESS

- **659 Rue St. Louis renovations presented to Commission by Curtis Gunn**

Curtis Gunn presented to the Commission a power point presentation of the renovations he is doing at his property located at 659 Rue St. Louis. He explained that he purchased the property and wanted to keep as much of the original material as possible. The property is a American 4 square that he thought was a Sears house but was not. When he entered the property to secure some interior damage he discovered that all of original plaster walls and ceilings were beyond restoration and had to be taken down to studs. The stairway was beautiful and would be restored as original. Windows could not be salvaged so they will be replaced. All flooring, baseboards and moldings has been saved and will be reused. He is trying to use as many materials as can be used that have been reclaimed, recycled or reused. The back sleeping porch could not be saved and had to be demolished. They saved as much material as possible to reuse in other areas of the house. Curtis said they have been very careful not to remove the original stained glass windows and working around them.

He talked about the expansion of the property and the addition of a mother in laws quarters and garage. They will be using James Hardy siding to help with the authenticity of exterior.

Phil asked if they were able to follow the historic inventory information for the renovation. Curtis said that there was not any historic inventory on the property as it was not designated a historic property. Phil suggested that Curtis contact Gretchen Crank at Historic Florissant to see if they have information that may be helpful.

Kent asked if anything else would need to be done on behalf of LHDC for Curtis. Phil said since this was not a landmark property it would not require any action.

Phil did say that the State has asked if we have decided on a grant project and are looking for something similar that we did last year. We have set the bar really high and now they expect that level of project from us.

MICELLANEOUS BUSINESS

ANNOUNCEMENTS / COMMENTS

Kent Miller asked if there was any further business. Being no further business Kent Miller stated he would entertain a motion to adjourn. Steve Frank made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Gary Meyer, All members concurred. Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Dianne Lehmann Recording Clerk