

ARTS, CULTURE & HERITAGE COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2015 – 6:30 p.m.
DEXTER SENIOR CENTER – 7720 ANN ARBOR

THE CITY OF DEXTER

Members present: Victoria Schon, Lynn Babcock, James Davis, Angie Noble, Gini Davis, Cheryl Willoughby and Donna Fisher.

Notes from the December meeting were reviewed and no changes were made.

The Committee welcomed the new Assistant to the City Manager Justin Breyer.

Temporary Art Display. Patti Schwarz is working on the call for sculptures. We are still hoping for a May/June installation of the temporary art.

Public Art Updates. The Committee discussed the feedback received from Mayor Keough that the mini mural project could look like or encourage graffiti in the downtown. Cheryl will follow up with David to ask his thoughts on that concern and to determine whether he has selected a character for the possible test. The Committee will look around downtown and bring back suggestions on how we might incorporate this art into the community in a way that does not look like graffiti. Before the test is done the idea would need to be approved by the Art Selection Committee and City Council.

Katharine Dexter McCormick Project. Cheryl will be meeting with Chuck Colby of Encore Theater next week to determine the best way to present the storyboard of the play about the life of Katharine Dexter McCormick to the Committee. If the Committee wants to move forward with commissioning the writing of the play, there will be a \$2500 charge. Staff will look into possible grant funding for the project, including a possible Art Works grant or the McCormick Foundation.

Plein Air 2015. Victoria distributed the timeline for the 2015 Plein Air Festival. Over the next few months we will be working on corporate sponsorships and securing the judge. There is currently a display of the Plein Air art from last year's festival in the basement of the Dexter District Library. Victoria and Courtney met with Plein Air participant and City resident Spike Hains regarding creating a website for the Plein Air event. The main goal of the website is to allow online registration for the artists and the events. Staff will have the ability to control all aspects of the page and the site will be linked to the City website.

Frederick Blackburn Pelham Memorial. James Davis has been working with his contacts at the University of Michigan College of Engineering on the idea of erecting a memorial sign to honor Mr. Pelham. Mr. Pelham designed the underpass and was the first African American architect to graduate from the University of Michigan. It is likely that the University will be willing to provide the funding. He expects to hear back from them on whether they will support the idea in February.