

Appleton Public Arts Committee

Annual Report – 2020

Meetings:

The Appleton Public Arts Committee (APAC) held their meetings on the following dates this year:

- January 7, 2020
- March 3, 2020
- July 7, 2020
- September 10, 2020
- October 6, 2020
- November 5, 2020

The standing schedule for APAC meeting is the first Tuesday of every month at 7:45 AM. Meetings are held based upon items requiring action or attention.

Committee Actions:

A summary of committee actions and agenda items includes the following:

- Houdini Welcome Tower:
 - The Committee was tasked with changing out the artwork that is displayed in the Houdini Welcome Tower. The committee originally planned to choose artwork from Appleton Area School District students. This plan hit a roadblock when schools were closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The committee determined that idea was no longer feasible.
 - In July, the Appleton Public Arts Committee took action to partner with Appleton Downtown Inc. and Rhythms of the World to provide images representing cultural diversity in the City of Appleton. Gathering images that meet the specifications to be placed within the tower proved to be challenging.
 - Staff suggested both partnerships could be an option for a future Welcome Tower installation.
 - In October, the Committee took action to hold a community photo contest to fill the spots in the tower. The contest was open to all City residents. The contest theme was “Images of Hope.” A total of 47 eligible images were submitted for the contest. The Art Committee chose their top 12 images for display in the tower. The images were placed in the tower in March 2021.
- Discussed and approved updates to the Art in Public Places Policy. The revisions established a public notification process and detailed the procedure to initiate if an applicant/artist is not in compliance with the Art in Public Places Policy.
- A total of five (5) public art projects were presented to the APAC for review and recommended for approval. The projects were:
 - *Lion Sculpture*
 - Applicant: Appleton Noon Lion’s Club (c/o Mary Beth Nienhaus)
 - Location: Lion’s Park
 - *Hearthstone Traffic Control Box Vinyl Wrap*
 - Applicant: George Schroeder – Friends of Hearthstone, Inc.

- Location: Traffic control box in the public right-of-way adjacent to Hearthstone Museum – 625 West Prospect Avenue
- *HOPE Sculpture*
 - Applicant: Creative Downton Appleton Inc. (c/o Jennifer Stephany)
 - Location: Houdini Plaza
- *Sexual Assault Survivors Monument (Conceptual Review)*
 - Applicant: Chelsea Bongert – Sexual Assault Survivors Monument Corporation
 - Location: Ellen Kort Peace Park
- *Houdini Plaza Welcome Tower Photo Contest*
 - Applicant: N/A (Art Committee initiated project)
 - Location: Houdini Plaza

Staff Projects/Administrative:

In addition to the agenda items presented at the APAC meetings, Staff worked on a number of items to support the Art Committee:

- Staff developed the process for administering the Houdini Welcome Tower photo contest. The following items were completed:
 - Created the contest submission form
 - Created the contest procedures and rules document
 - Worked with IT to create a separate webpage for the contest
 - Worked with IT to create a fillable form on the website for contest submissions. The images were uploaded from the form directly to the City's server.
 - Coordinated promotion of the photo contest with the City's Senior Communications Specialist
 - Followed up with each contestant if there were missing items or issues with the submission
 - Collated all eligible photos for presentation to the Art Committee
 - Notified contest winners
 - Worked with the printing company for image printing
 - Coordinated installation of the images with Parks, Recreation and Facilities Staff
- Staff Reports were prepared for each of the public art projects presented.
- Routed public art applications to appropriate departments and collated comments for each project. These were used as the staff report and staff recommendations were prepared.
- Met with City department representatives to update the Art in Public Places Policy.
- Made revisions to the Art in Public Places Policy and brought it to APAC, Community & Economic Development Committee (CEDC) and Common Council for approval.
- Worked directly with the artists/applicants to collect required documentation for the art agreements. Coordinated the execution of the agreements with the applicant/artist.
- Two new APAC members were appointed by the Council to fill vacancies on the committee. A new chair was also appointed.

Future Actions for 2021:

- Staff will continue to work to refine the review process for public art projects and make adjustments as appropriate.
- Continue to invite speakers to the APAC meetings, as needed.
- Continue to review and process applications for new public art projects.
- Work with the Art Committee to develop a consistent plan for changing out the artwork in the Houdini Welcome Tower.