



# CITY OF DELRAY BEACH

100 NW 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue  
Delray Beach, FL 33444

## ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES PUBLIC ART ADVISORY BOARD

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Tuesday, June 29, 2021

6:00 p.m.

City Hall

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Present:

Joe Aronstein

Damian Fitzsimmons

Lark Keeler

Maxwell Zengage

Absent:

Tonya Akins

Peter Pereira, Chair

Staff present:

Jason King, Legislative Affairs Manager

Kelly Brandon, Assistant City Attorney

**MOTION:** Aronstein/Zengage – to name Lark Keeler as Chair for the meeting.

**Motion passed by a 4-0 vote.**

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Fitzsimmons/Aronstein – to approve the agenda as presented.

**Motion passed by a 4-0 vote.**

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

**I. Downtown Development Authority “I Love Delray” Sculpture**

Mr. King called Marusca Gatto, Downtown Activation Manager for Downtown Development Authority (DDA) to provide an update on the DDA proposal for an “I Love Delray” sculpture.

Ms. Gatto presented the proposal to partner with the Public Art Advisory Board to create an installation of letters spelling out “I Love Delray” in celebration of the DDA’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. She explained the letters would be four (4) feet high, 2.5 feet wide, and one (1) inch thick sheet metal to be placed in a

prominent location downtown. She discussed ideas for locations and a local artist to paint out the sculpture, and stated the ask was for the PAAB to partner with the DDA

Mr. King noted the item was before the Board because staff was considering offering the DDA option to the City Commission in place of its own sculpture as previously discussed. The Board engaged in a discussion regarding the difference between this proposal and the original concept, portability, costs, and funding for the piece.

Mr. Fitzsimmons asserted the City's original idea was more 3-D, and stated the additional words took away from the artistic value of the sculpture. Discussion continued regarding the flexibility of the design and the timeline. Ms. Gatto stated she would need time to discuss those issues with the team and board at DDA.

Mr. Aronstein asked for clarification on how the sculpture would be secured to the ground. Ms. Gatto responded that it would be staked in or be bolted to a concrete base, depending on the location of the installation.

Laura Simon, DDA Director, provided background on the project and the initiative to bring recognition to the Delray Beach community. She stated the Board was open to suggestions and feedback. Discussion ensued on the status of previous proposals for a LOVE sculpture and other public art projects.

**Motion** made by Mr. Aronstein, seconded by Mr. Fitzsimmons to recommend the City Commission deny the approval of providing funding to the DDA for the current concept of the LOVE sculpture as it stands.

**Motion passed** by a 3-1 vote.

Yes: Mr. Aronstein, Mr. Fitzsimmons, and Ms. Keeler.

No: Mr. Zengage.

## 6. OLD BUSINESS

### I. Dog Sculpture Display on NE 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue in Pineapple Grove

Mr. King updated on the dog sculpture display proposed for NE 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. He reminded the Board they had previously stated they liked the piece, but not the location. Mr. King explained staff had walked the avenue and come up with two (2) other locations to propose. He shared images of the sculpture and proposed locations near the dog bakery and tattoo parlor.

The Board engaged in a discussion regarding engaging the business owners, locations, and protecting the sculpture against theft.

**Motion** made by Mr. Aronstein, seconded by Mr. Fitzsimmons to recommend the City Commission approve placement of the dog sculpture at 325 NW 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, between the two (2) store fronts of units 102 and 103, in the right-of-way.

**Motion passed** by a 4-0 vote.

Yes: Mr. Aronstein, Mr. Fitzsimmons, Ms. Keeler, and Mr. Zengage.

**7. OTHER BUSINESS AND STAFF OR BOARD COMMENTS**

Acting Chair Keeler recommended financial documentation be provided at each PAAB meeting, to allow the Board to understand funds currently available in the Public Arts Trust. Discussion ensued regarding the documentation available from the City's Finance Department and the funds earmarked for public art. Assistant City Attorney Brandon suggested an agenda item at a future meeting.

Acting Chair Keeler asked how to ensure better communication in the future between the PAAB and the DDA to align energy and funds expended on public art projects. Ms. Simon responded briefly, outlining the efforts of her organization and opportunities to collaborate. Discussion ensued regarding collaborating with the DDA, attendance at DDA meetings, and funding public arts.

Acting Chair Keeler discussed communication she had with the artist behind the "Dancing Pineapples" regarding damage to the murals and her experience. She asked that future conversations regarding public art include how to preserve that art. Discussion ensued regarding the Board's previous recommendation to provide an inventory and assessment of all City-owned art and pursue repair as needed, as well as maintenance agreements and applicable Land Use Development regulations.

The Board and staff discussed the application process for an art project and signage to tell the story of existing art.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

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Board Liaison

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Date

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Board Chair

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Date