



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: 10/3/2019

From: Stuart Schillinger, Deputy City Manager

Subject: Selection of Artist for Skateboard Park Quarter Pipe Wall

Community Goal/Result

Community Building

Purpose

To improve the quality of life within the community by stimulating creativity and imagination, adding a unique human quality to the community environment, and enriching public spaces through works of art.

Recommendation

Direct staff to sign a contract with the firm Science and Company to paint a mural on the quarter pipe wall at the skateboard park.

Background

On March 7, 2019 the City Council approved \$25,000 from the Public Art fund to be used to place art on or near the quarter pipe wall facing Old County Road. The City Council subsequently appointed two additional members of the public to the Art Selection Committee. The Committee reviewed eight proposals. From these eight, they narrowed it down to three artists with whom they conducted in-person interviews.

Discussion

After much deliberation, the Committee chose Gaelen Smith of Science and Company as the artist for the installation (proposal attached). The committee wanted to make sure the art piece would not be just reflective of the skaters but of the broader community, because everyone in the Community Park would see it as well as people who drove by on Old County Road. The Committee also wanted to have an art piece that would not only be enjoyed momentarily by someone driving in a car, but also by someone who spends more time with it while walking by. The Committee also wanted to make sure the artist was willing work with the Community so the entire town could feel some level of ownership in this art piece.

The Committee thought the number of meetings Gaelen plans to have with skaters and community members would ensure the final design was reflective of the whole community. The Committee liked Gaelen's emphasis on working with students and they envisioned a process where students participated in the creation of the piece, which would create a sense of ownership. The Committee liked a number of his pieces, which had an over-riding theme that could be taken in quickly and easily understood at a distance, but also work that was intricate when someone was close up and could get a different understanding. Although the Committee would not recommend some of the industrial looking block lettering seen in some of his work, they did however think some of his more free form work would be a nice addition to the City.

If the City Council authorizes staff to enter into a contract with the artist tonight, the process going forward would be:

- Staff works with the firm Science and Company to develop and sign the contract
- Gaelen would meet with members of the community to get a better understanding of what is important to the community so the artwork would be reflective of the town
- Gaelen would develop a concept plan which would be vetted by the Selection Committee
- After the Selection Committee was comfortable with the idea, it would be recommended to the Parks and Recreation Commission
- The Parks and Recreation Commission would review the art work in an open session and make a recommendation to the City Council
- The City Council would have final approval of the work before it painted on the wall

Fiscal Impact

There is approximately \$800,000 available in the Public Art Fund. The Council has committed \$25,000 for the touch-up of the mural at Mid-Towne Market, \$50,000 for the art piece in the new library and \$25,000 for this art piece.

Measure of Success

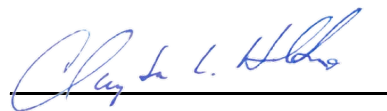
The City commissions a piece of public art for the Skateboard Park, which stimulates the community's creativity and imagination, and enriches the public space.

Attachments

- 1) Proposal from Science and Company

Stuart Schillinger

Stuart Schillinger, Deputy City Manager



Clay Holstine, City Manager