

**MINUTES OF THE VISUAL ARTS COMMISSION
MEETING
CARNEGIE TOWN HALL
January 15, 2008**

- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jerry Hauck, Ceca Cooper, Ann Marie Davis, Lary Etten, Lyle Pudwill, Kris Carmody Reaves.
- MEMBERS ABSENT:** Anita Kealey ,
- OTHERS PRESENT:** Stacey McMahan (Past Visual Arts Commissioner), Don Kearney (Director of Parks & Recreation), Clarence Kooistra (Disabled Veterans of America), Dennis Adams (Disabled Veterans of America), and Russ Sorenson, Planning Office Staff Liaison.

Chairperson Jerry Hauck called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

- ITEM 1. WELCOME new members, Ceca Cooper and Ann Marie Davis.**
Chairperson, Jerry Hauck, welcomed new commissioners, Ceca Cooper and Ann Marie Davis, to the Visual Arts Commission.
- ITEM 2. RECOGNITION of SERVICE – Stacey McMahan.**
Chairperson, Jerry Hauck, presented Stacey McMahan with a recognition plaque for her dedicated service and leadership while serving on the Visual Arts Commission. Ms. McMahan has served on the Commission since 2003, and most recently, as Vice Chairperson. Ms. McMahan, an advocate of all the arts, was instrumental in developing guidelines and procedures for the Commission’s call for art and served as the Commission’s liaison for the first call for art. Other Commissioners and city staff extended their heartfelt appreciation as well.
- ITEM 3. REVIEW & ACTION on the December 18, 2007 Meeting Minutes.**
Commissioner Lary Etten made a motion to approve the January 22, 2008 meeting minutes, as presented. Commissioner Kris Carmody Reaves seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- ITEM 4. REVIEW & ACTION on Request for Art Placement in Veterans Memorial Park.**
**Presenter(s): Disabled American Veterans Chapter No. 1
Don Kearney, Director of Parks & Recreation**
- Don Kearney, Director of Parks & Recreation, commented the Veterans Memorial Park Board has adopted artwork placement guidelines relative to the Veterans Memorial Park’s mission statement, appropriateness of placement within the park, and durability of materials. The Veterans Memorial Board has considered two requests for placing sculpture in Veterans Memorial Park. The first sculpture placement, known as Going Home, was considered in 2007 by the Board and Visual Arts Commission and approved by the City Council last October. This new placement request is for a bronze sculpture known as “Eternal Sentry”, by artist Dr. John Wightman. Mr. Kearney stated the Veterans Memorial Park Board has reviewed the sculpture and its placement and requests further review by the Commission and the Parks Board.
- Mr. Kearney introduced Disabled American Veterans (DAV) representatives, Mr. Dennis Adams and Mr. Clarence Kooistra, to the Commission.

Mr. Adams distributed information copies for the sculpture placement project to the Commissioners. Mr. Adams commented that five years ago the DAV commissioned Artist, Dr. John Whit Wightman, to do the "Eternal Sentry" sculpture with the intent to donate it to the Veterans Memorial Park.

Mr. Adams stated the bronze sculpture is a respectful cultural expression of a "Battlefield Cross" honoring and memorializing all service men and women who have fallen. The sculpture portrays a rifle pointing downwards into the ground as a memorial of a soldier killed in action. Often the rifle is capped by a helmet, dog tags and at the bottom, a pair of boots to represent the final march of the last battle – items the soldier has no further need for.

Mr. Adams mentioned the bronze sculpture measures 50" in height, 14" in width, and 15" in length and weighs approximately 250 lbs. The sculpture would be placed on a quartzite stone pedestal base measuring approximately 22" high, making the statue itself rise to a total height of six (6) feet. Also proposed by the DAV, was to have the sculpture's metal back plate affixed to an upright stone quartzite pedestal measuring 76" high, 24" long and 20" wide to help stabilize the sculpture. There would be separate pedestal for a bronze plaque to recognize and serve as a dedication to those who have fallen. New landscaping consisting of flowers (red roses and blue forget me nots) would surround the sculpture.

The proposed sculpture location within the park is west of a central park areas referenced as the Citizens Veterans Plaza and amphitheater.

Mr. Clarence Kooistra, DAV Representative, expressed the sculpture was first put on display at the DAV in 2004. He stated the DAV desires to find a permanent home for the "Eternal Sentry" that is meaningful and appropriate, and that Veterans Memorial Park is such a place. Mr. Kooistra stated that all veterans organizations are very supportive of this sculpture and its proposed placement in Veterans Memorial Park.

Commission Chair person, Jerry Hauck, stated the Commission appreciated the DAV's project efforts and presentation. One Commissioner express support for the project but inquired if it would be feasible to have the sculpture appear more "free-standing" by not having the sculpture affixed to the back plate or placed against the upright stone pedestal.

Mr. Adams indicated the artist would need to be consulted about that modification.

Another Commissioner also expressed support for the project but suggested that perhaps the metal back plate could be removed and the sculpture be recessed into the upright stone backing, thus appearing as a relief form.

Mr. Adams indicated the artist would need to be consulted about that idea too.

There were no other public comments expressed.

Commissioner Lary Etten expressed support for the project. He made a motion to approve the "Eternal Sentry" sculpture and its proposed location in Veterans Memorial Park, and for the DAV representatives to communicate the Commission's preference of removing the metal back plate with the artist.

Commissioner Kris Carmody Reaves seconded the motion.

A commissioner inquired if removing the metal back plate was a condition of approval. Mr. Etten stated that it is not a condition of approval, but only a preference.

The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 5. REVIEW & ACTION on 2007 Visual Arts Commission Annual Report.
Presenter: Staff

Russ Sorenson, presented the 2007 Visual Arts commission Annual Report to the Commissioners. Commissioners acknowledged the various projects they have worked on. The commissioners mentioned they were proud of their 2007 accomplishments and that the report cover was very colorful and artistic. The Commissioners also expressed their appreciation to Russ for his efforts in finalizing the report.

There were no public comments received. Chairperson Jerry Hauck directed acceptance of the 2007 Annual Report and requested that it be forward to the Mayor and City Council and posted on the Commission's website page.

ITEM 6. PROJECT UPDATES (Staff &/or Subcommittees)

- **Call for Art – Visual Art Wall**
- **East Tenth Street Fire Station Student Art Project**
Commissioner Stacey McMahan presented an illustration for the proposed fire station remodeling project. It was discussed that possibly the east side of the red hose tower structure would be an appropriate visual art project location. The tower panels measure approximately 2" X 30" in size and are 7/8" thick. It was acknowledged the Maltese Cross is a significant symbol to fire fighters. Future contacts and discussions with the new city fire chief and school district officials will be necessary to discuss this project further

- **VAC Website Page Updates - completed**
http://www.siouxfalls.org/Mayor/boards_commissions/visual_arts_commission.aspx

Russ Sorenson mentioned that all monthly updates have been completed on the Commission's website.

ITEM 7. Election of Commission Officers – Chairperson and Vice Chairperson

It was the consensus of the Commission to defer action on the election of officers until the February 2008 meeting, when all commissioners could be present.

ITEM 8. PUBLIC INPUT

There was no further input received from the public.

ITEM 9. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:20 am.

HANDOUTS – January 22, 2008 Meeting

- December 18, 2007 Meeting Minutes
- January 22, Meeting Agenda
- Handouts for Items 4 and 5.