

**MINUTES**  
**CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE**  
**April 21, 2009**

The Tarpon Springs Public Art Committee met in the Tarpon Springs Library Conference Room on Tuesday, April 21, 2009 with all members present: Marleen Gravitz, Sue Geier, Barbara Schnipper, Michael Poppa, June Fox, Beverly Kurpinski, Maria Bobotas. Also in attendance were City Staff Representative Director of Cultural and Civic Services Dr. Kathleen Monahan, City Advisor Ginny Haller, Asst. City Attorney Shauna Morris, City Liaison Debbie Stott, and our regular guest, Vice Mayor Robin Saenger. This meeting followed a tour around the city of potential art sites and gateways to the city. The tour departed from the library at 9:10AM with all persons listed above on board a small bus driven by police Officer Quinones.

Chairperson Marleen Gravitz called the meeting to order at 10:45AM. March meeting minutes were reviewed. Barbara Schnipper moved to accept as presented, Maria Bobotas seconded. Minutes were unanimously accepted and approved as presented.

In compliance with Sunshine Law there was no discussion among board members while on the bus tour. Prior to discussing the tour Chair Marleen Gravitz distributed a sheet with information gathered detailing and entitled "Major Roles for Public Art in Tarpon Springs". Discussion began addressing possible gateway sites based on a 5-year plan. Maria Bobotas stated that she felt murals were equally as important in or as a gateway as a physical gateway entrance. Barbara Schnipper disagreed. Sue Geier moved the board make murals a priority effort, seconded by Ms. Schnipper. Unanimously approved.

Discussion continued identifying specific gateway areas or sites. Many ideas were exchanged about the Klosterman Road/Alt. 19 area; both positive and negative. Mrs. Kurpinski moved to make the northeast corner of Klosterman and Alt. 19 a gateway entrance; seconded by Mic Poppa. Discussion continued before a vote whereas Asst. City Attorney Shauna Morris said gateways are usually positioned at the most "friendly" property area, e.g. consideration given as to who owns the property (city, state, private, etc.). Given the pros and cons of this location, Ginny Haller suggested that the area around the golf course and hospital might be a better choice. Mrs. Kurpinski amended her motion for just a sign at Klosterman and Alt. 19 and a gateway at the golf course/hospital area, seconded by Sue Geier. This amended motion died as more controversy arose. An amendment to the amendment was made by Mrs. Kurpinski, seconded by Mrs. Geier as follows: Instead of a gateway feature at Klosterman and Alt. 19, consider the Country Club Drive area which is in proximity of the golf course and hospital. Unanimously approved. Further discussion continued for additional gateways. Three other sites were decided upon. Sue Geier moved for a potential gateway on the north side of Alt. 19 near Oscar Hill Dr. area. Seconded by Mic Poppa. All members for, none opposed. Sue Geier moved for a site at Pine Street and Alt. 19, seconded by Mic Poppa. After some discussion, motion was withdrawn. Marleen Gravitz suggested Tarpon Ave. area just before it crossed Disston St. She then showed several slides of this proposed area along Tarpon Ave. and Hwy. 19. Sue Geier moved for a gateway location on Tarpon Ave. in the vicinity of Disston and Levis. Motion failed for no second. After further clarification of the area initially proposed by Mrs. Geier, she again moved for a gateway between Disston & Levis somewhere on Tarpon Ave. Barbara Schnipper seconded. Passed with no opposition. The last proposed gateway was a

8

motion from Barbara Schnipper for the area of MLK near North Ave. Sue Geier seconded. Passed with no opposition. In summary, the 4 potential gateways to be considered are:

- 1) Alt. 19 and Country Club Drive area (near hospital & golf course)
- 2) Alt. 19 N near the Oscar Hill Drive area (near the Anclote River bridge)
- 3) Tarpon Ave. between Disston & Levis
- 4) MLK near North Ave. on the south side of MLK

Ginny Haller offered that there are other gateway potentials or way finder locations. Sue Geier suggested a freestanding kiosk type structure to post notices, events, artwork, local tourist sites and other areas of interest. She suggested we create a symbol to denote specific type-sites for easy identification. As we progress in work with a new Renaissance Group through Robin Saenger, this idea will be further reviewed.

For the sake of time, several routine agenda items were skipped to elect officers for the term ending March 2010. Mrs. Schnipper moved that Marleen Gravitz continue as Chair, seconded by Sue Geier. Unanimously approved. Mic Poppa moved that Sue Geier continue as Vice Chair, seconded by Barbara Schnipper. Unanimously approved. Mic Poppa moved that Barbara Schnipper continue as Secretary, Sue Geier seconded. Unanimously approved. There was no other new business.

In closing comments and procedures, Robin Saenger suggested we get a consensus of the online registry for artists focusing on collecting a poll of creative people within the City of Tarpon Springs including visual as well as non-visual "artists", i.e. non-visual being writers and other type talents. Maria Bobotas asked who is responsible for artist expenses as they do their work or bring it to the City. Shauna Morris responded that this is a contractual matter usually negotiated in the selection process however most artists pay their own personal expenses. Marleen Gravitz requested everyone retrace the art tour route trying to create linkage bringing the Trail, docks, historical sites, Inness paintings, Safford House, and other heritage related places together noting personal thoughts and recommendations. Barbara Schnipper reminded everyone that fellow board member, June Fox currently has a showing at the UU church. Marleen advised that she is going to an upcoming BOC meeting and give an update during Public Comments about the ongoing accomplishments of this Board including activities and meetings since inception over a year ago. She will give an overview of plans in progress and outreach efforts. She is doing this prior to the Annual Report which will be given at a later date. Sauna Morris reminded everyone of the Safety Harbor Chalk Fest suggesting this type event may be something this Board may want to look into.

With no further comments or business the meeting adjourned at 12:10PM.