

CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE  
Minutes – January 18, 2011

The Tarpon Springs Public Art Committee (TSPAC) met in the Tarpon Springs Library Conference Room on Tuesday, January 18, 2011 with members Marleen Gravitz, Barbara Schnipper, Mic Poppa, Lynn Pierson, Maria Bobotas, and Georgia Post present. Also present were Director of Cultural and Civic Services Kathy Monahan, City Liaison Denise Manning, and regular guest Vice Mayor Robin Saenger. Board member Sue Geier was absent.

The TSPAC appointment terms of Marleen Gravitz, Sue Geier, and Lynn Pierson were reinstated at the Board of Commissioners meeting on January 11, 2011. Marleen Gravitz called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. Maria Bobotas moved to accept the minutes of November 16<sup>th</sup>; Barbara Schnipper seconded the motion; all were in favor. Lynn Pierson moved to accept the minutes of December 14<sup>th</sup>; Ms. Bobotas seconded the motion; all were in favor.

**City Updates:**

A new director for the Leepa Rattner Museum of Art was hired. Victoria Cook, curator for the New Orleans Museum of Art and LSU, begins on February 9<sup>th</sup>. Current director, Lynn Whitelaw, will be the Leepa-Rattner's curator.

Manatee Celebration Day is next Saturday at the Heritage Museum and Craig Park. Gen Haley procured a grant from the Wildlife Foundation of Florida to help sponsor the event.

**Project Updates:**

Sunburst Restoration: Tom Funcheon anticipates painting will be complete this week, and paint did contain uv protectant. Lighting updates will follow. Kathy Monahan is coordinating with Liz Indianos for a ribbon-cutting event in mid February. Dr. Monahan asked TSPAC members to view the mural, paying special attention to electrical boxes, a/c units and other surrounding elements that could detract from the artwork.

Community Outreach/Welcome Mat Project: No new updates, although Robin Saenger contacted Leslie Allisandratos from the Historical Society and she is interested in the project.

Logo Contest: Georgia Post will complete the flyer and forward to Gen Haley who will write an accompanying press release and E mail the call to artists. Favorable replies were received from selection jury candidates, and contact info forwarded to Denise Manning.

Trauma Informed Community Initiatives: A Community Education Day, sponsored by Tarpon Rotary and the Shepherd Center, will be held on February 5<sup>th</sup> at Tarpon's First United Methodist Church. The event will include local and national speakers from the Juvenile Welfare Board, Veterans Advocacy Services and several other organizations. Robin Saenger will E mail the TSPAC with additional information and stressed the ways in which art has helped to heal trauma.

The standard letter for donations of public art to the City is complete and approved by Kathy Monahan. Lynn Pierson will contact Dorothy Brown about copyright for the photographs Ms. Brown is donating to the City.

Mic Poppa, independent of the TSPAC, will provide to the Board of Commissioners his recommendation for a landscape buffer immediately in front of the Mother Meres mural.

**New Business:**

No update on the possible Ray's Baseball public art project in Tarpon Springs.

Robin Saenger discussed a recent fundraiser at Whimsey House: a unique art and music center created in an old house in downtown Safety Harbor. Several ideas were presented for a similar performing arts venue in Tarpon Springs, possible fundraisers to benefit the arts, and the value of the arts to the City.

**Announcements:**

Kathy Monahan mentioned the funeral today for Blaine LeCouris, former Tarpon police chief and city manager, and father of current city manager Mark LeCouris. She also mentioned the funeral Thursday for Dr. John Dallman.

Dr. Monahan advised that Billie Poteat, 25-year Cultural and Civic Services staff, has retired.

Ms. Gravitz announced that monthly Sunset Beach concerts resume February 17<sup>th</sup> with the addition of a new corporate sponsor, Sun Toyota.

Barbara Schnipper made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:10 a.m; Maria Bobotas seconded the motion; all were in favor.

*(Approved and signed by Marleen Gravitz and Denise Manning February 15, 2011)*