

DIVERSITY AND HERITAGE ADVISORY BOARD CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES, FL

May 16, 2023

The regular meeting of the **DIVERSITY AND HERITAGE ADVISORY BOARD** was called to order at 6:35 P.M. by Chair Hicks-Lee at the Southwest Focal Point Senior Center Pembroke Pines, FL 33025

DIVERSITY AND HERITAGE ADIVSORY BOARD

Present: Chair Hicks-Lee, Vice Chair Prospect; Members Tewari, Burns, Industrious, Potter, Landrian; Alternate Member Acuna

Absent: Members Edwards, Potter, Comfort, Brewster, Sicard, and Mathew

Also Present: Liaison Shechter, Brian Sherman Assistant City Attorney; Linda Flynn Public Arts Plan Consulting Services; Board Secretary Nicole Lafrance

EXCUSED ABSENCES

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Member Landrian seconded by Member Industrious to approve previous Minutes for April 18, 2023, passed unanimously.

PUBLIC ART MASTER PLAN

Linda Flynn introduced herself as partner of the Cultural Planning Group that specialize in Public Art Master Plans for cities both big and small across the United States. The Cultural Planning Group is currently working on Master Plans for 4-5 cities within Florida, she went on to speak about her team members Rosario and David Saunders who is based out of California and will be advising with this Master Plan from afar. Linda Flynn spoke about their company's experience and how they have seen a resurgence in Public Art in the last 7-8

years and they had just finished a Master Plan for the City of Naples. Linda Flynn also mentioned the national examples and Santa Clara Water District in California where they had a voter mandate to include public art. Chair Colombo asked what their company did for the City of Naples, Linda Flynn responded that they did their Master Plan and strategic plans based of tourism in Collier County as well as three plans in the Bay Shore area.

Linda Flynn also mentioned in St Petersburg they did a public arts piece by Janet Echelman an artist from the Tampa area. The City of Tampa raised 2.1 million dollars for this art piece that is on display at the St Petersburg pier, the artists inspiration came from a trip she took to Portugal and fishing nets.

Linda Flynn went on to discuss the values of the community within a Public Art Plan and how Pembroke Pines has made a lot of progress within the public arts, including The Frank gallery as well as Studio 18. Linda also mentioned how when making a Master Plan for the Public Arts there can be lots of technicalities and ordinances and mentioned she will be meeting with the city's lawyers tomorrow. Linda went on to discuss when doing public art, the importance it is to have community engagement. Chair Colombo mentioned she was happy to hear about the community's involvement and engagement.

Linda Flynn went on to explain that a public art collection needs to have the diversity of thought, diversity of art and artists and how sometimes it can be difficult for Public Art Committees to not want to only go with art that they like personally and the guidelines where making decisions meet criteria and quality.

Linda explained they keep in mind the location of artwork for maintenance and conservation when approving a project.

Linda Flynn mentioned that her company have done a tour of the community and have looked at background documents, they will be starting internal stakeholder interviews with City Staff tomorrow. Linda says her company will also be doing community surveys and assessments on potential locations and projects as well as looking at ordinances and policies.

Linda Flynn concluded by stating what she thinks is “success” it would be understanding the community vision and elevating awareness in PA, aligning with other city plans including park plans. Linda mentioned that once they define the engagement plan, she will come back and speak to members to get some of their ideas. Chair Colombo asked for updates on the Public Art Plan be added to the agendas.

Ms. Flynn then went out to take Q&A.

Member Tewari: Will the Public Arts Master Plan be working with the Parks and Rec Dept?

Linda Flynn: Yes, her and Holly Bonkowski have had meetings with Christian Sorensen.

Member Tewari: Has the consultants looked at East Park?

Liaison Shechter: This is the park where the Board was asked to make a recommendation on a name and will have the statue of Gandhi. Holly and Christina have been working with them and the park still has about 2 years to completion.

Chair Hicks-Lee: Are the consultants going to be the ones choosing the artists?
Specifically local artists.

Linda Flynn: No, the decision is up to the city and the community, the job of the consultants is to give the framework.

Member Tewari: What will the consultants be doing to help celebrate different cultures?

Linda Flynn: They will be looking at what the community would like to see as far as engagement with diversity.

Member Azad: Will they be working on any plays with different cultures?

Linda Flynn: They do not work on the performing arts directly, but they will be meeting with them to get input.

Member Burns: What did Linda mean earlier when she referred to the city in “3 quadrants”

Linda Flynn: Meant East, Central and West Pembroke Pines. This is a planning term not districts.

Chair Hicks-Lee: What other parks are the consultants looking at?

Linda Flynn: They have been meeting with Ms. Sorenson and will continue to work with Parks and Rec while they do their own Master Plan.

Chair Hicks-Lee: Is the Public Arts Master Plan a 5-year plan?

Linda Flynn: Yes, 5–7-year plan. Will be looking for some early wins, something the community can notice right away.

Chair Hicks-Lee: Will the consultants be working towards looking at a more diverse group of artists, besides the white male dominated area?

Linda Flynn: Agrees, they will be looking at people from all over, different ages, genders, and not only limited to local but possibly even international.

Chair Hicks-Lee: Mentions how murals are becoming such a big thing globally, if they don't find someone local will they be looking outside of the city?

Linda Flynn: They will be looking at people from all over, different ages, genders, and not only limited to local but possibly even international.

Member Acuna: What is the city doing now regarding Public Art and how can green space and canopy roads play into the plan?

Linda Flynn: There are plenty of ways to incorporate green space and Public Art especially when they are working together with the Parks and Rec department. This could mean hiring a landscape architect or arborist.

Member Tewari: Are you working with the Arts and Culture Board?

Linda Flynn: Yes, she is working closely with Holly Bonkowski.

Member Industrious: Have you given any thoughts about children art?

Linda Flynn: Yes, they recently did a project with high school students who were asked to create a mural. This is something they would like to do again.

Liaison Shechter mentions the project the Focal Center did where they crocheted the benches of the city, and it became a hit where they now do knitting and sewing events at the center.

Linda Flynn: Mentions the artist in Miami that tags garbage laying on the street and posts it to social media, which engages the community to go out and pick up these pieces to have a piece of art by him, but it also helps clean up the community.

Member Industrious: Who should we submit ideas to?

Linda Flynn asks all members to participate in the survey for the Master Plan, and to submit any ideas in the comments section.

LIAISON REPORT

Liaison Shechter had nothing to report, giving more time to the Public Art Presentation.

OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

NEW BUSINESS

Chair Hicks-Lee mentions the previous vote taken by the board to request a budget for events in the amount of \$150,000. She brings up the idea that maybe they can also recommend at Board Night that the city of Pembroke Pines and Miramar can work together on events. Member Landrian and Vice Chair Prospect agree, this is a good idea. Member Acuna asks what working with the city of Miramar would look like, would they be sharing costs for events? Chair Hicks-Lee mentions that since they are two different cities they would have two different budgets, but where one city is lacking the other could help with. Member Burns mentions the legality of "Twin Cities" and that being a legal entity. Member Tewari agrees with Member Burns on this. Member Industrious asks if this is something the Commissioners will get involved in and Chair Hicks-Lee responds yes, as it would ultimately need to be approved by Commission. Member Burns mentions how the two cities have different budgets so how would they be "working together". Member Industrious mentions how they cities can work together on events, but whose ever event it is would be "presented by (City Name)". Member Burns mentions how the city of Miramar allows the city to have a budget and the different commissioners to have their own budget. Member Burns mentions how possibly mentioning all this at Board Night might be a lot of information and they might want to wait for a better time.

Chair Hicks-Lee goes on to summarize what the board will be recommending at Board Night, including the recommendation for names of the East Park, a \$150,000 budget to plan cultural events, and asks members if there is anything else they would like to add. Vice Chair Prospect makes a motion, seconded by Member Landrian to recommend that the city do a “City Spotlight” for different cultural celebrations throughout the year passes unanimously. Chair Hicks-Lee asks Vice Chair Prospect how the selection process would work. Vice Chair Prospect mentions how at first it can be highlighting city employees and as this gains more traction they can expand into the community.

Chair Hicks-Lee asks members if they would like to recommend to commission that they have a member of this board represent and be involved in the Public Art Master Plan and artist selection. Brian Sherman Assistant City Attorney mentions how the Master Plan will be a public forum, where members of the Board will be able to attend and voice their opinions. Member Tewari mentions how they are not sure how the process will work; he feels it best to wait before recommending this item.

Chair Hicks-Lee concludes the meeting by asking Brian Sherman if she is allowed to put on a little event for the board as we go into July recess. Mr. Sherman advises on the Sunshine Law and lets her know if that is something she would like to do they can discuss that further.

REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There was none.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Prospect adjourned the meeting at 7:53 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Lafrance
Board Secretary

Adjourned: 7:53 PM
Approved:

