

ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Special Meeting of Tuesday, 10 June 2014
Downtown Partnership Office, Storrs Center Transportation Center

MINUTES

1. The meeting was **called to order** at about 5:05p by Kim Bova. *Members present:* Kim Bova, Tom Bruhn, Scott Lehmann, David Vaughan. *Members absent:* none. *Others present:* Cynthia van Zelm (Downtown Partnership), Jay O’Keefe (staff).

Background. The purpose of this special meeting was to interview (separately) the two artists on the Committee’s short list for sculpture in the new Town Square at Storrs Center.

2. **David Boyajian** (Danbury, CT): “Weaving shuttle” and “Eye of the needle”

- a. **Mansfield connection:** The proposed sculptures – the same basic elliptical loop modified to represent (in greatly enlarged form) a weaving shuttle and the eye of a needle – reflect Mansfield’s history of thread and textile manufacturing.
- b. **Appeal to children:** Kids could climb on these sculptures and through the eye of the needle. The “threads” will be strong enough to hang on (e.g., for pull-ups on the “Weaving shuttle”).
- c. **Materials & design:** Welded, rough-ground stainless steel bolted to stone base. The bottom of “Eye of the needle” could be made to resemble more closely the shaft of a needle, which the Committee would prefer.
- d. **Size (h x w x d):** “Weaving shuttle”: 8ft x 4ft x 4ft at top, 8ft x 3ft x 3ft at bottom. “Eye of the needle”: 7ft x 6ft x 8ft. Though it would be possible to separate them, Mr. Boyajian envisions these sculptures as components (6 to 8 ft apart) of a two-part piece, with a footprint of 8 ft by 16-20 ft.
- e. **Preferred location:** Mr. Boyajian thought the Dog La/Storrs Rd corner site would be best for the two-part piece. The sculptures could be separately located and united at a later date, if desired.
- f. **Installation:** Sculptures would be fabricated at Mr. Boyajian’s shop. Stone bases made elsewhere (with bolts to fit mounting holes in the base of the sculptures) would be installed at the site. The sculptures would then be transported to the Square on a flatbed truck and lifted onto their bases by crane.
- g. **Maintenance:** Stainless steel requires no maintenance. However, welding can locally alter the alloy so that small rust spots appear in areas of spatter. These can be eliminated by grinding when sculptures are in place, and Mr. Boyajian would do so.
- h. **Hazard management:** The thread ends will be rounded. Welds will be ground smooth. The potential for tripping over the low loop of thread around the base of “Eye of the needle” could be reduced by breaking the loop (as if it continued below the level of the base).
- i. **Project timeline:** Mr. Boyajian indicated that the timeline specified in the Request for Proposals is realistic for the project he has proposed: the sculptures could be finished and installed in early September, assuming that a contract is signed shortly after 30 June.
- j. **Price flexibility:** \$65K is needed to do a good job on time, in Mr. Boyajian’s view. Base is included in price.
- k. **Insurance/warranty:** \$2M liability insurance for fabrication, transportation, & installation. 1-year structural warranty on installed sculpture.

3. **Miles Chapin** (Putney, VT): “River flowing over mill”

- a. **Mansfield connection:** The proposed sculpture – an abstract rendering of water flowing over a mill wheel – reflects Mansfield’s history of using water to power numerous mills.
- b. **Appeal to children:** An attractive object to climb on – his own kids enjoy doing so on

similar works.

c. Materials & design: One-piece granite on stone base. Three surface textures: rough split stone for mill wheel, pounded interior and polished exterior surfaces. Granite is available in various colors (at somewhat different costs). Finished piece would probably differ slightly from maquette design; granite is not homogeneous and the sculptor needs freedom to bring out patterns in the stone.

d. Size (h x w x d): 4ft x 8ft x 2.5ft. Could be made larger – 5ft x 10ft x 3ft – at a somewhat higher price (as weight is proportional to volume, the larger granite block required would weigh about twice as much). The larger size would be preferable, in Mr. Chapin’s view; the high buildings nearby will make even large sculptures look small.

e. Preferred location: Either location would be OK. Like Mr. Boyajian, Mr. Chapin prefers the Dog La/Storrs Rd corner, where the piece would invite visitors into the Square.

f. Installation: Lifted by crane from flatbed truck onto previously installed stone base.

g. Maintenance: Stone would be impregnated with silicone to retard growth of moss, lichen, etc. Graffiti should be removed with an acid wash, after which the stone would need reapplication of silicone.

h. Hazard management: Not high enough to risk bad falls for kids climbing on it. Openings in the sculpture will be large enough not to trap their heads. Edges will not be sharp.

i. Project timeline: Mr. Chapin has other commitments until September and could not produce this work in time for installation in September. However, a rendering of it could be produced for display in September, if desired. The piece could be installed within a year of the start date: a large granite block must be obtained from a quarry, and an ambitious piece of this size requires a lot of time to sculpt.

j. Price flexibility: \$65K is “slightly negotiable.” Adjustments up or down can be negotiated for size and stone color. Base is included in price.

k. Insurance/warranty: “[F]ull liability insurance coverage.” Half of total purchase agreement refundable if “the committee decides they do not want the work, or is dissatisfied.” Installed work is guaranteed to be “free of cracks or defects that could result in breakage.”

4. Adjourned at 6:17p. The Committee needs to make a recommendation in time for the Partnership’s Board meeting on 03 July. A **special meeting** was tentatively scheduled for 5:00p, Tuesday, 24 June, at the Partnership Office.

Scott Lehmann, Secretary, 19 June 2014; revised 24 June 2014; approved 02 September 2014.