

ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Special Meeting of Thursday, 31 July 2014
Downtown Partnership Office, Storrs Center Transportation Center

MINUTES

1. The meeting was **called to order** at 11:40a by Kim Bova. *Members present:* Kim Bova, Scott Lehmann, David Vaughan. *Members absent:* Tom Bruhn. *Others present:* Cynthia van Zelm (Downtown Partnership), Jay O’Keefe (staff), David Boyajian (sculptor).

2. Town Square Sculpture. At its 03 July 2014 meeting, the Downtown Partnership’s Board of Directors voted “to approve the selection of David Boyajian’s ‘The Weaving Shuttle’ and ‘The Eye of the Needle’ for placement on the Town Square pending full funding.” (Draft minutes, item 5). Cynthia van Zelm reported that full funding has yet to be secured. The Partnership now has commitments from donors for \$15-20K, and she hopes that enough can be raised to permit going ahead with one of the sculptures at this time – the other could be added later if more money is found.

Just before the meeting, David Boyajian met at the Square with Eric Ohlund, Mansfield’s Clerk of the Works, who indicated that it might be possible for the Town to install footings and a concrete foundation slab for the sculpture as an in-kind contribution. This would reduce what Mr. Boyajian needs to be paid, since his proposal budgeted \$10K for the base.

It was agreed that if money is available for just one sculpture, it should be “The Weaving Shuttle.” This is a more complex construction than “The Eye of the Needle,” and Mr. Boyajian said that he would need about \$30K for its fabrication and installation on a Town-supplied slab – \$15K at the beginning, \$7.5K half-way through, with the \$7.5K balance at installation, which he thought could be accomplished by 21 September. (A separate foundation would be required for “The Eye of the Needle,” should the Town want it at a later date.)

Mr. Boyajian proposed to modify the design of “The Weaving Shuttle” slightly so that the lower ‘threads’ circle around the shuttle’s bobbin base, as depicted in a drawing he brought to the meeting. To this the Committee agreed. Another drawing showed a more substantial redesign of “The Eye of the Needle” – the needle on its side, with lower loops of thread. Since money for this sculpture is lacking at present and such a modification would require approval from the Partnership Board, the Committee did not discuss it (beyond voicing a preference for smoothing the connection between the needle’s eye and its shank).

Installing “The Weaving Sculpture” at the Storrs Rd/Dog La corner location would require trimming a limb from the large oak, according to Mr. Boyajian, as this sculpture is to be 8 feet high. Ms. van Zelm noted that this could be a problem and that, for other reasons, she and the Committee prefer the Royce Cir/Dog La corner location. Mr. Boyajian said that this location would be satisfactory and that there would probably be room there for “The Eye of the Needle” as well.

3. Adjournment. At approximately 12:15p, the group moved to the Town Square to see just where “The Weaving Shuttle” sculpture might be placed. Mr. Boyajian thought disruption of the already-installed pavers could be minimized by orienting one side of the sculpture’s foundation slab along the double-line of charcoal colored pavers that runs diagonally from the Square’s Royce Cir/Dog La corner. The meeting broke up at about 12:30p.

Scott Lehmann, Secretary, 01 August 2014, revised 02 August 2014; approved 02 September 2014.