

Public Art Commission Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the City of Germantown Public Art Commission was held at the Klein Conference room at the Economic and Community Development building on Tuesday, August 20, 2024

1. Call to Order:

Chair Amanda Littlejohn called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

2. Roll Call and Establishment of a Quorum:

Present:

Christopher Schmidt, Kevin Young, Linda Reyle, Amanda Littlejohn, Alderman Mary Anne Gibson, JD Graffam, Albert Pope, and Cara Sievers

Absent:

Mindy Fischer, Mary Burrows

Staff:

Cat Peña, Public Art & Design Manager and Sheila Pounder, Assistant ECD Director

3. Approval of the Minutes from the July 16, 2024:

The minutes from the July meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Christopher Schmidt to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded by Linda Reyle and passed unanimously.

4. Citizens to be Heard:

There were none.

5. New Business:

- a. The Standard (Phase 2): Application of proposed public art

Project Name:	The Standard Germantown Planned Development
Location:	Southeast corner of the intersection of Poplar Avenue and Kirby Parkway
Owner:	CRE Devco Germantown, LLC
Applicant:	Adam Slovis, Slovis Commercial
Zoning:	T5
Request:	Approval of public art project “Star Shadow” for Standard Germantown, Phase 2

Cat Peña, Public Art & Design Manager gave a brief staff presentation regarding the history of the SmartCode Public Art Ordinance and reiterated the commission's role in the review and approval of private development public art projects.

The applicant, Adam Slovis, Managing Partner of Slovis Commercial, 495 Tennessee Street. (Ste. 152) Memphis, TN 38103, made a presentation and answered the Commission's questions.

MAIN MOTION:

Design and Review Commission Liaison, Christopher Schmidt moved to approve the artwork "Star Shadow" for the Standard of Germantown PD, subject to the commission's discussion, staff comments, and the documents and plans submitted with the application, seconded by Beautification Commission Liaison, Albert Pope.

The motion moved to the floor for further discussion.

AMENDMENT TO THE MOTION:

Design and Review Commission Liaison, Christopher Schmidt made a motion that there be continued involvement and communication with the Public Art & Design Manager to address lighting and materiality as the development continues, seconded by Cara Sievers.

ROLL CALL:

Graffam – Yes
Littlejohn – Yes
Pope – Yes
Schmidt – Yes
Sievers – Yes
Young – Yes
Reyle – Yes
Gibson – Yes

MOTION PASSED 8-0-0

There was no further discussion.

MAIN MOTION AS AMENDED:

ROLL CALL:

Graffam – Yes
Littlejohn – Yes
Pope – Yes
Schmidt – Yes
Sievers – Yes
Young – Yes
Reyle – Yes
Gibson – Yes

MOTION PASSED 8-0-0

6. Project Updates:

- a. **“Amalgamation” Temporary Artwork Display in the Community Library:**
Cat Peña reported that the installation of *Amalgamation* occurred on August 5th, 2024. A community workshop will be held on Saturday, September 21st from 11a.m. to 1 p.m. in which Sharon and Charles Havelka will work with community members of all ages to make a traditional paper dragon centipede kite. The kite will be suspended from rafters for a short during.

Cat Peña asked for 2 volunteers to assist with the workshop. Linda Reyle volunteered to assist with the event. One volunteer is still needed. Chairwomen Littlejohn asked that promotion of this event focus on that community members will be making one large kite together rather than making a small kite to take home.

Commissioner Kevin Young requested that Valerie Calhoun be contacted about this project to help raise awareness about this project.

- b. **Creative Crosswalks:**

Cat Peña reported that Phase 1: Farmington Blvd. & Wolf River Blvd. has been delayed because the initial dimensions did not include the turning lane. Due to an increase in the length there will be a slight increase in the budget for this crosswalk. The increase will be covered by the Public Art Fund. She anticipates that the installation will occur during the week of October 7, 2024.

The completion of Phase 2: Riverdale Road & Wolf River Blvd. has been delayed due to the reliance on the completion of the Milling and Overlay CIP project on Wolf River Blvd. The Engineering department is currently seeking bids for the project. The bids will be opened on September 13th, 2024. The work is not anticipated to be completed until May 2025. The date of completion for Phase 2 is anticipated to occur in the first quarter of FY26.

7. Reports:

- a. **Chairwoman’s Report: Amanda Littlejohn** - Chairwoman Littlejohn thanked the commission for their thoughtful comments during the approval process of the proposed artwork for the Standard Germantown. In addition she asked that the commission consider the accessibility and experience of individuals who have limited abilities or disabilities and are not traditional public art viewers on future projects.

- b. **Alderman Liaison Report: Mary Anne Gibson**- Alderman Gibson shared information about several events including:
 - Harvest Moon Festival on October 19th from 12-6 p.m. at the Farm Park. It will be a ticketed event and tickets are \$10.

- Neighborhood Preservation is holding a summit called “Neighbors in Action”. It will be held at the Great Hall on September 24th. from 5:30- 8:00 p.m.
- The Economic Development Commission is holding the first ever “Business Owners Summit”. The event will connect staff at ECD with business owners. The event will be on October 29th from 8:30- 1:00 p.m. at the Great Hall.
- ”Lights on the Farm” on December 7th at the Farm Park. The lights will remain along the carriage trails for people to enjoy through January.

c. Beautification Liaison Report: Albert Pope- Commissioner Pope wanted to remind the group that Thanksgiving falls on the last week of November this year and the Holiday Lighting Ceremony will be the last day Friday of November. The location of the Holiday Tree is currently being determined due to timing of construction projects around City Hall. Applications for the Lighting Contest will open during the week of Thanksgiving and judging will be on December 11th. There will also be some additional holiday decor along the roadways this year due to a set of new MLGW standards for banners on light poles.

d. Design & Review Liaison Report: Christopher Schmidt- Commissioner Schmidt reported that the subcommittee met to review the Germantown Collection revised landscape plan. The DRC also approved a Chipotle at the old Backyard Burger on West Street. Lastly there was a Sketch Plan Meeting to review Phase 3 of The Standard Germantown which would include a boutique hotel that would be located at the corner of Kirby Parkway and Poplar Avenue.

e. Parks and Recreation Liaison Report: Kevin Young- Parks & Recreation Commissioner Young shared a Parks & Recreation meeting is scheduled for later this week.

8. Announcements:

- a. The next meeting will be held at ECD on September 17th, 2024 at 5:00 PM.

9. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Minutes approved by:


Amanda Littlejohn, Chairman

Date: Sept 17, 2024