

MINUTES
CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE
August 18, 2009

The Tarpon Springs Public Art Committee met in the Tarpon Springs Friends of the Library Room on Tuesday, August 18, 2009 with members Marleen Gravitz, Barbara Schnipper, June Fox, Mic Poppa, Maria Bobotas and Beverly Kurpinski present. Also in attendance were City Representative Kathy Monahan, City Advisor Ginny Haller, Asst. City Attorney Shauna Morris, and City Liaison Debbie Stott. Guests included Vice Mayor Robin Saenger and City Manager Mark LeCouris. Board member Sue Geier was absent.

Chairperson Marleen Gravitz called the meeting to order at 10:05M. July meeting minutes were reviewed. Maria Bobotas moved to accept as presented, Barbara Schnipper seconded. Minutes were unanimously accepted and approved as presented. Shauna Morris deferred the Master plan update until the next meeting. City Manager Mark LeCouris stated that he had come to this meeting to answer questions about the Master Plan in support of the Art Committee. Old Business was a report from Beverly Kurpinski about the Hot Seats project. 45 chairs were auctioned, with 30% of the proceeds given to this committee or \$232.80

AG Development was on the agenda to present Meres Town Center tower panel revised artwork. Artist Gary Bernardo had not completed his revisions thus this presentation was deferred until the September meeting. It was decided by overall agreement that the name on the boat in the bayou should be "Tarpon Springs" not "Sara Jane" as originally presented. Mr. Bernardo will be informed of this change.

There was no New Business.

Barbara Schnipper mentioned there is a website, [absolute art.com](http://absoluteart.com) which has on page 19 a call to artists for art in Tarpon Springs. She also distributed posters for a comedy group performing at the T.S. Cultural Center in August. Dr. Monahan informed everyone about a sculpture exhibit at the Cultural Center by local artist, Vahak Sarkis, Ph.D. August 8th – September 30th. Chair Gravitz said that she had noticed more businesses doing murals and various type artwork on buildings in and around Tarpon Springs. Mr. LeCouris told everyone about a "moveable art" program in Eustis, FL where artwork has been temporarily set-up on an empty space of land. You can pull up their website to learn and see more about this idea. Robin Saenger suggested the committee try to organize an evening, outdoor event to draw locals and visitors similar to what other cities are doing, e.g. St. Pete has a "Cool Jazz Night" in a local park. Mark LeCouris reminded everyone that on the 2nd Saturday in October we will have "ArtWalk" emphasizing local artists' work on our sidewalks with stores open hoping to generate activity and business downtown. Kathy Monahan reminded everyone that on October 3rd there will be an "Islands" event at the Sponge Docks. Anyone wanting to publicize or review City events should check the City website or contact Judy Staley. In closing, Chair Gravitz reminded everyone that final approval of the artwork will be given at the next meeting make plans to attend.

With no further comments or business the meeting adjourned at 10:45am.

