

**MINUTES
CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE**

May 19, 2009

The Tarpon Springs Public Art Committee met in the Tarpon Springs Library Conference Room on Tuesday, May 19, 2009 with members Marleen Gravitz, Barbara Schnipper, Michael Poppa, June Fox, Beverly Kurpinski, and Maria Bobotas present. Also in attendance were City Staff Representative Director of Cultural and Civic Services Dr. Kathleen Monahan, City Advisor Ginny Haller, Asst. City Attorney Shauna Morris, City Liaison Debbie Stott, and our regular guest, Vice Mayor Robin Saenger. Board member Sue Geier was absent.

Chairperson Marleen Gravitz called the meeting to order at 10:09AM. April meeting minutes were reviewed. Barbara Schnipper moved to accept as presented, Mic Poppa seconded. Minutes were unanimously accepted and approved as presented.

In routine and old business Mrs. Gravitz gave a brief update on the Artists' Registry Information. Response has been from artists across the United States as well as local. Mrs. Gravitz advised that her presentation at Leepa Ratner about this committee went well. They expressed interest in becoming involved and possibly sharing artwork with us. Chair Gravitz went on to discuss the 5-year plan being somewhat tentative based on our economic forecast. The itinerary of last month's site tour was reviewed. Various site selections were discussed for entryways, murals, pedestal type art, sculpture, functional art, respite parks, gardens, etc. focusing on trying to guide residents as well as tourists to specific destinations, areas or attractions. Robin Saenger stressed that the Renaissance Group is working on signage for linkage to various sites through "wayfinding" elements. The Art Committee wants to be involved in decision making with this group to maintain common goals and objectives.

The presentation from Meres Town Center was postponed until June. They have broken ground and started construction. Their art project will possibly be a clock tower type structure in or near their location.

New Business covered a project called "Hot Seats" being held by the Recreation Dept. during summer camps. Kids attending will restore and creatively paint donated benches and chairs. At the end of camp in July, items will be auctioned with 70% of proceeds going to day camp scholarships and the other 30% being contributed to the Public Art Fund. Art Committee members were asked to support these efforts during camps by volunteering and also seek donations for chairs, paint supplies, etc. It was mentioned that competitive judging be held at the culmination of camp with prizes awarded. Debbie Stott will request this project be posted on the City Website under "Hot Topics" to hopefully generate public support. There was no additional new business.

In closing, Marleen Gravitz announced that the Garden Fairies of Tarpon Springs led by Siobhan Nehin have been granted permission to make a "pocket park" on the empty lot

by Faklis' Dept. Store on the north side of Tarpon Ave. In support of this enhancement, funding was provided by BB & T and other corporate partners. Mrs. Gravitz also announced that she plans to speak at the June 2nd BOC meeting if she can get on the agenda. The purpose is to bring Commissioners up to date about the Art Board. All members were asked to attend. Debbie Stott will proceed with the agenda request process. Maria Bobotas asked if a potential or interested artist could make personal presentations during our meetings. The answer was this process would be addressed as artist selection procedures were finalized.

With no further comments or business the meeting adjourned at 11:56AM.

MAY