



Public Art Commission of Truckee Meeting Minutes

October 01, 2024, 4:00 PM

Town Hall – Administrative Center | 10183 Truckee Airport Road, Truckee, CA

1. **Call to Order**: Sarah Ring, Deputy Town Clerk called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.
2. **Roll Call**: Commissioners; Jennifer Standteiner, Molly Moore, Steve Thompson, David Mason, Vice Chair, Carole Sesko, and Chair Troy Corliss.

Absent: Commissioner Kelly Cutler.

Staff Present: Riley Powers, Assistant Engineer; Nola Mitchell, Associate Engineer; Becky Bucar, Assistant Public Works Director; and Sarah Ring, Deputy Town Clerk.

Commissioner Cutler arrived at 4:05 p.m.

3. **Public Comment** -

- Jennifer Standteiner, provided comment to the commission.
 - Requested an update the repair of the Jumping Fish art piece.

4. **Presentations**

4.1 **Staff Updates.**

Becky Bucar, Assistant Public Works Director, introduced David Mason, Arts Advocate Commissioner.

- Chair Corliss, made a motion to move the balance of staff updates to the end of the meeting due to Commissioner Standteiner needing to leave early and the commission agreed.

5. **Discussion Items**

5.1 **Selection of Final Artist for the Church Street - Truckee Way Public Art Project.**

Staff Recommendation: That the PACT review the final art proposals and select the art and artist to recommend to the Town Council, for implementation of the Church Street/Truckee Way Roundabout art installation.

Riley Powers, Associate Engineer presented from the staff report (on file with Town Clerk.)

Commission discussed the approach to the method as to how they would discuss the submittals.

- The commission decided to do a roundtable to identify the top three artists of each commissioner with a 1, 2, and 3, ranking of the artists.

Criteria from the RFQ:

- Overall Concept Approach

- Originality and Innovation
- Appropriateness, relevance, and compatibility with the site context, including the Railyard area and Mobility Hub
- Longevity
- Artist references and experience
- Demonstrated ability to implement the project

Commissioners provided their top three initial rankings.

Initial ranking results:

1. Sean Orlando, Truckee Grove
2. Jake Balcom, Rails to Trails
3. Nordin Brothers, Diamond in the Western Sky

Commission Discussion:

Nordin Brothers, Diamond in the Western Sky

- Glass element were left in with their refined designs.
- Commissions decided, after a couple of ideas as to how to approach the review conversation, that each commissioner should be allowed 3 minutes to speak on each piece; one piece discussed at a time.

Jake Balcom, Rails to Trails

- Appreciate the spiraling form with a 360-degree view.
- Love the verticality and how it pulls the eye upward.
- Fits well within the roundabout and the town's overall scheme.
- Prefer a more abstract interpretation; the current design feels too literal and busy.
- Great choice of durable materials, but there's concern about the fragility of the petals and metals.
- Love the use of two different metals for color, but perhaps the metal usage could be flipped.
- Stenciling at the base is distracting, unnecessary, and clunky; silhouettes might work better down the spiral.
- Love the plants and natural forms.
- Appreciate the river and mountain elements; the curve evokes the river nicely.
- Concerned about the curve becoming a skate ramp.
- Compliments the surroundings without being overwhelming or drawing excessive attention.
- Feels like the piece is trying to be two things at once; simplifying could enhance the design.
- The railroad track element is hard to see, and separating the flower stems could improve visibility.
- Questioning the need for another flower-themed roundabout piece.

Sean Orlando, Truckee Grove

- Pleasing, easy to look at, and gentle visually without being obstructive.
- The abstraction is appreciated, offering a nod to the natural environment without mimicking it directly.
- Like the variation in heights, but additional variation in height and spacing could enhance the design.
- The design bridges Truckee's historic logging past with its modern identity.
- Could benefit from being more distinctly "Truckee" and less generic or "off the shelf."

- The changes made by the artist improve the piece and make it more aligned with local botanicals.
- Efforts to reduce climbability are acknowledged and appreciated.
- Scale, size, and materials are appropriate for the location.
- Works well with the surrounding environment and complements the space.
- The design is digestible for the public and avoids being too out there.
- There are no significant concerns about safety or maintenance.
- Mentions lighting, but with Dark Skies policies, it won't be allowed to include lighting.
- Opening up the design with more breathability (e.g., removing a few elements) could improve the piece.
- Lacks boldness or color, more contrast and color would add vibrancy to the work.
- The seed pod inspiration is clear but could benefit from more refinement.
- Rendering shows minimal landscaping, but the area will likely become fuller over time, improving the integration.
- The "less is more" approach works well but could use slight enhancements for greater impact.

The Commission agreed to allow each commissioner three minutes to provide final comments on their top selection.

- Commissioners held another round of discussion to help make a final selection between the two final artists: Jake Balcom and Sean Orlando.
- Vice Chair Sesko proposed continuing the meeting, provide the artists some feedback on alterations that could be made to help with the final decision.
- There are elements of both pieces that are not presenting an obvious winner.
- Continuing the meeting will change the proposed timeline.
- The concepts need further development.
- Is it offensive to the artists to ask to change their piece?

Chair Corliss opened Public Comment:

Seeing none, Chair Corliss closed public comment.

Commission Direction:

Continue this discussion to a Special Meeting, to be scheduled on October 29, 2024, if not that date, then the discussion will be continued to the next regular meeting of November 5, 2024.

The recommendation was moved by Commissioner Sesko, seconded by Chair Corliss, and adopted with the following vote:

Ayes: Vice Chair Sesko, Chair Corliss, Commissioners Standteiner, Commissioner Mason, Commissioner Moore, Commissioner Cutler.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

Abstained: None.

The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Standteiner left the meeting at 5:15 p.m.

Committee discussed feedback to provide the Artists.

Artist Feedback:

Jake Balcom, Rails to Trails

- Eliminate stenciling.
- Concern about longevity of petals and materials but acknowledge that those parts will be built in a durable way.
- Separate the flowers.
- Landscaping and snow will block the stencils most of the year.
- Use the lighter metal on the top of the spiral representing a railroad track.
- Consider a different species, or a native flower to Truckee.

Sean Orlando, Truckee Grove

- Contrasting color to give it dimension.
- Too dense, strongly encourage opening it up, more breathability, create negative space, alternate or variable shapes.
- Alter the design to relate to Truckee in a more obvious way.

Additional Artist Information:

- Artists will have until October 21, 2024, to submit their final concept.
- Staff will email the artists the feedback directly.

5.2 Future Agenda Items

- Schedule a Special Meeting for October 29, 2024.
- Move discussion of the Temporary Art Program to December.
- Discuss cancelling the November 5th meeting.

6. Commissioner Reports:

- Continued to the next meeting.

7. Adjournment – 6:05 p.m.

To the regular meeting of the Public Art Commission of Truckee, November 5, 2024, 4:00 p.m. at Town Hall, 10183 Truckee Airport Road, Truckee, CA.

**Sarah Ring, Deputy Town Clerk
Commission Secretary**