



Public Arts Advisory Board

AGENDA REPORT

Department: Public Art
Prepared By: C. Ehrlich

Account Code: 175-5175 Land Betterment

Subject

Consider, and act upon, the approval of the Municipal Walking Trails, Phase 3 artist design by Sonny Behan at a cost not to exceed \$59,190, including a contract to commission the art, and authorizing the City Manager to execute any and all necessary documents.

Recommendation

Motion to approve the Item as presented.

Discussion

The Municipal Walking Trails, Phase 3 will consist of two sculptures depicting the white tail deer by Sonny Behan and a second artist to create the Native American hunters that traversed the Blackland Prairies.

Artist Behan has extensive experience in animal sculpture including a lion at the United Nations building. He uses extreme detail in his sculpting as well as movement within his pieces.

Throughout history the favorite game animal hunted by native American men was the white-tailed deer. Deer provided most of the meat as well as hides, antlers, sinew and bones for tools and clothing. Deer also figured prominently in their dance and symbolism.

The Caddo tribes, as well as many others considered animals as their kin. They taught their young hunters to respect nature and wildlife and the importance of a “clean” kill. They did not want the animal to suffer. After the kill, they would pray or sing a song to thank the animal for giving its life for them. They also used every part of the animal partly out of utility, but mostly out of respect.

The Walking Trails theme will continue to depict the rich history of the Blackland Prairie over the past 15,000 years which the Municipal Complex and trails are part of.

The City Attorney’s office has reviewed the contract prior to presentation to the council.