

JULY 23, 2020 CAAPB BOARD MINUTES Approve

Board Members, Advisors and Staff present: Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan, Tony Chevalier, Denita Lemmon, Michael Bjornberg, David Lanegran, Elaine Fink, James McClean, Alicia Belton, Kate Beane, Sen. Carla Nelson, Rep. Raymond Dehn, Sen. Sandy Pappas, Ted Lentz, Don Grundhauser, Daniel Yang, Paul Mandell, Linda Spohr, Pete Musty, Lisa Ochs

Board Members absent: Rep. Jerry Hertaus

Others present: Elizabeth Zalanga, Greta Dryer, Nathan Hartshorn, Noel Nix

Lt. Governor Flanagan opened the second virtual Board meeting in two months, announcing why the meeting needed to be virtual and describing details for the Board and/or public involvement in the Board meeting.

With a new Board Member appointed by Mayor Carter, replacing David Lanegran (both of whom were present), the Lt. Governor had everyone introduce themselves. She then spoke at length, capturing the key takeaways from the June 2020 Board meeting addressing the process regarding commemorative art in or around the Minnesota State Capitol, under the jurisdiction of the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board (CAAPB) and, inside the Capitol Building itself, the CAAPB and the Minnesota Historical Society (MNHS). She recapped the presentation's by CAAPB Executive Secretary Paul Mandell and Legislative Policy Director David Kelliher of the MNHS, detailing where and how the two bodies carry out their duties regarding art on the grounds (a CAAPB decision) and, in the Capitol Building where there is joint jurisdiction, with MNHS the final decision maker, noting that this applies to the historic and ceremonial public spaces of the Building, while for the new public spaces created in the Capitol restoration project for those other spaces not considered either historic or ceremonial spaces, the Department of Administration is the lead responsible party.

She also spoke of the work of the MNHS in conducting several conversations over the history of commemorative art, memorials and other works statewide, and then she briefed all on the work before the Board regarding creation of two task forces to advise the CAAPB on commemorative art; the first looking to refine the process and procedures for modification or removal of existing artwork, to propose to the CAAPB for their consideration; and the second, to solicit public input on the range of concerns regarding commemorative art, addressing the diverse populations of today's Minnesota, what they like and what they might not like or might want to see.

She made it clear that there will be no action on any specific monuments, including the Columbus Statue, until the Board has received and acted upon the reports of the two task forces regarding existing pieces on the ground, and that the process must be transparent and accessible to all Minnesotans.

The Chair then moved on to numerous administrative business items, starting with the minutes. The June 25th Board Minutes were MOVED and SECONDED. Board Member Lentz suggested that the matrix (chart), jointly developed by the CAAPB and MNHS to address commemorative art and monuments, be included in the June 25th minutes as an attachment. With that, all voted to approve the June 25, 2020 minutes, as amended to include the chart.

Next, the Chair introduced Daniel Yang, a new Board member appointed by Mayor Carter, but first acknowledged the twenty-eight years of service by Board member David Lanegran, geography professor at Macalester College, a member of the Executive Committee, the Personnel Committee and the Comprehensive Plan Committee, that he also served on various civic bodies including the Saint Paul Planning Commission and Riverfront Redevelopment Corporation. The CAAPB owes a great deal of appreciation to David.

Noel Nix, Deputy Director of Intergovernmental Relations Community Engagement in Mayor Carter's office, speaking for the Mayor, told of the years of service by David to the Capitol Area and greater Saint Paul, then read a public declaration by the Mayor proclaiming July 23, 2020 to be David Lanegran Day.

David expressed his special thanks to the CAAPB staff, spoke of his long relationship and pride, as well as wonder, for the Saint Paul Capitol Building, even after traveling throughout Europe, Asia, Russia, China, Australia and the Americas. "So many places of power, so many successful monumental landscapes that represent the soul, ideas and aspirations; in addition to monuments repurposed, removed and ignored. He expressed hope that the Board will be able to create a widespread public input process that will enable us to create a landscape that displays and memorializes ideas and values we aspire our State to achieve."

"In his view, these values include Equality, Justice, Collaborative Coalitions, Democracy, Pluralism and Freedom, adding in closing, that it had been a privilege to work with us all."

The Chair, Lt. Governor Flanagan, expressed her appreciation to David, again for his service but also for sharing his values. She then transitioned to welcoming and swearing in Daniel Yang. David, a senior policy advisor to Mayor Carter, having previously worked for Children's Defense Fund and the Native American Community Development Institute, as well as on several non-profits including Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless, Charities Review Council and Neighborhoods Organizing for change. He holds a bachelor's degree in political science and social justice from Hamline University. Daniel expressed his excitement as an opportunity of a diamond.

Lastly, the chair raised the issue of the need to name new members to the Board's Executive Committee, having lost both Ann Buck and David Lanegran, the two members who served for more than the past twenty years on the committee – which is charged really with performance reviews and searches, when necessary, for the Board's Executive Secretary, meeting at most, once or twice each year. As Chair, she nominated Elaine Fink, the senior member of the Board in terms of service, and Alicia Belton, who bring her own different perspective. The nomination was MOVED, and SECONDED, and then APPROVED unanimously.

Next, the Lt. Governor turned to the Task Forces for Commemorative Works. These advisory bodies will consist of fifteen members appointed through the Secretary of State's Office via Gubernatorial appointments. They're intended to reflect the diversity of Minnesota, and to assume as much transparency and accessibility for the general public to understand how existing commemorative

works of art are examined for relevance and appropriations as well as any process for determining if such works are amended, modified, relocated or removed. One task force will be charged to make recommendations to the Board on how to process requests for such changes to existing monuments; and the other task force, to solicit public input about monuments and commemoratives in and around the State Capitol.

The Board, in acknowledging the gap in the current policies or procedures that spells out a process for those wanting changes to the existing monuments or commemorative art, is seeking, through these task forces, to both gather more public input into what is memorialized on the Capitol grounds – and eventually double-back on that input gathered by the Capitol Preservation Commission’s Art Subcommittee in 2013-2015 and since on artwork in the Capitol Building; while at the same time, gather ideas on how to develop a process for changes to the existing monuments or what might be currently missing on the grounds. Current CAAPB policies have always been clear on how new works are introduced on the Capitol grounds – but with no requests in the past to change or remove existing monuments, had no standards or procedures to apply to such requests.

The task forces, given the new visibility of commemorative works of art, cannot help but improve the transparency and understanding of how art gets developed at the Capitol. The Chair explained that the task forces will be enabled for two years but suggested that the immediate needed work will span probably six–eight months, depending on the success of the outreach and ability to meet during COVID. Each task force will serve as advisory bodies to the CAAPB and, for input about the Capitol Building interior art, the MNHS.

Representative Dehn spoke of the timely value of this work, due both to memorials currently being one of the topics of the day due to racial tensions as well as given the limits of the Capitol grounds, eventual competition for open space. He also noted how difficult it may be to decide what might be historically important or, for that matter, inappropriate thirty years from now.

Board member Kate Beane added that the State House presents the opportunity for these spaces to better uphold our shared values in a more inclusive way.

Executive Secretary Mandell, responding to Representative Dehn’s comment, advised the Board that over time, CAAPB staff, Advisors and the Board reduced the scale of memorials, based on lessons learned, starting with the first one, the Vietnam Memorial in 1987-1990 to most recent, with the exception of the Cedar Street ‘gardens’, now averaging 100 square feet or, as with other trends, using new buildings to recognize certain historical figures or re-using older architectural elements (as in the case of the Medal of Honor Memorial reuse of the broken pool feature at the “Promise of Youth.”

Board member Lentz spoke of his experience on the Preservation Commission’s Art Subcommittee – focused on artwork that should “engage and inspire.” With that, the resolution to establish the decision process Advisory task force was **MOVED** by Lentz, **SECONDED** by Senator Pappas, and **MOTION PASSED**. (Note: Senator Nelson had stepped out due to another commitment).

Next, the Chair spoke to the “public engagement task force” – which will be focused on “providing the space for Minnesotans to share their experience about what the Capitol means to them. They will hold public meetings, virtually and hopefully in person too, so folks can feel heard and that the Board can better understand and articulate the shared vision for the Capitol grounds and State Capitol Building. The Task Force will share its findings on key themes and recommendations to the Board to ensure proactive decisions. She recognized the great work and outreach and public response in the Capitol restoration, acknowledging the work of both Anton Treuer and Gwen Westerman, both of whom served on the earlier art review work for the Capitol Building.

Board member Beane encouraged the task force to acknowledge those indigenous Minnesotans possibly no longer living in the state due to policies.

Board member Lentz spoke of the extensive nature of the public outreach as part of that Preservation Commission Art Subcommittee, holding roughly a dozen meetings statewide, attended by as many as a hundred people – many of whom had never been involved at the Capitol before. He spoke of the value of these hearings, cautioning that to match that outreach may take more time and money than might be available.

Senator Pappas spoke of the more recent work by another Art Subcommittee, one headed by Robyn Robinson that looks at the non-ceremonial or historic spaces; a process staff by the Administration Department and decisions ultimately approved by the Preservation Commission, her point being that, the art in those areas should also be covered.

The Commissioner of Administration added that they plan on assisting the CAAPB, due to the CAAP’s limited staff and budget, on the Task Forces, adding that Administration also maintains the memorials and commemorative works on the Capitol campus as State property, acknowledging the many parties who play a role in what happens inside and outside the Capitol.

There was some lengthy discussion of how the task forces members would be selected by Senator Nelson who had missed that part after she stepped off the call, as well as other details of how each would function. The Lt. Governor noted how hundreds of such appointments are regularly handled by the Secretary of State Appointment Office for the Governor, as well as this Administration’s focus on diversity in all bodies. In addition, the Lt. Governor reiterated that the Task Forces are all strictly advisory and that all decisions, at least for the grounds, would be made by the CAAPB Board.

Mandell commented on the extensive record through the fifty-plus years of the CAAPB of outreach to the public – from Comprehensive Plans to the Capitol Rice Development Framework to even the recent Capitol Building Worker’s Plaque, where he noted statewide solicitation of student-based design competition for the design and text.

All voted to approve the second Task Force, on Engagement – including Senator Nelson, who'd returned to the meeting.

David Kelliher, with the Minnesota Historical Society, noted that while the MNHS is not directly involved in decisions regarding commemorative artwork or the Capitol Grounds, they remain available to help answer questions, especially once the art in the Capitol Building becomes the focus.

Representative Dehn spoke to the breadth of public sentiments regarding art at the Capitol – addressing the historical narrative and understanding that it's often the dominant culture that decides history, expressing his support for yet more public outreach. Board member McClean spoke to the value of looking beyond the Capitol Area too.

Lt. Governor Flanagan added reference to the work the Historical Society was about, examining memorialization and commemorative work in general, looking historically how society recognizes key historical people and/or events.

Next, CAAPB Planner Linda Spohr briefed the Board on visitor engagement the CAAPB has had as part of their work on the 2040 Comprehensive Plan, referencing earlier reports to the Board, with over four hundred surveys to visitors to the Capitol Building and over one hundred to those on the Mall, both in 2019 and not resumed due to COVID in 2020. There were questions asked about parking, about the memorials and safety.

Lt. Governor Flanagan added that she and the Governor continue to hold conversations with tribal leaders and encouraged all to tune in for the Historical Society's programs – starting July 30.

Executive Secretary Mandell noted that with Board action appointing Elaine Fink and Alicia Belton to the Executive Committee, one more step would be to select one of them as Vice-Chair so that in the event the Lt. Governor is unable to Chair a Board meeting, that Vice-Chair would conduct the business of the Board.