

Work Session Meeting of the Sandy Springs City Council was held on Tuesday, December 6, 2016, at 7:08 p.m., Mayor Rusty Paul presiding.

Councilmembers present: Council Member John Paulson, Council Member Ken Dishman, Council Member Chris Burnett, Council Member Gabriel Sterling, Council Member Tibby DeJulio, and Council Member Andy Bauman.

STAFF DISCUSSION ITEMS

City Manager's Office

1. 16-435 Consideration of a City Donation Policy

Communications Director Sharon Kraun gave the Public Art and Gifting to the City PowerPoint presentation.

Mayor Rusty Paul stated he has been the one pushing the public art idea. He, along with Mr. and Mr. Tom Ventulett, have been working with George Bushey, contractor with Rosser, to look at the interiors at the new city hall. Mr. Ventulett is the architect who created the King and Queen buildings, and has been very active in the Ventulett Gallery at Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church. The Ventulett Gallery has done a phenomenal job of curating art gallery and using local artists. That is the reason why Mayor Paul asked Susan Westmoreland and Dr. Jerry Stapleton to oversee the committee, as they also contribute to the management of the Ventulett Gallery. Mr. Ventulett has been involved in helping them with the architectural aspects in working with Mr. Bushey. The sales of art may be a key ingredient to this. Two of the three nonpaid volunteer consultants told the City if you allow the artist to sell those pieces, you get a greater range of high end artists to put their art in place. There will be better quality displays if you do that. If the City allows this, then we can take a fee for the selling of the art. There would need to be an onsite ability to connect the artist with the individual who wants to purchase the art. Legal staff will have to look at the options. His recommendation is to allow the artists to sell their pieces. In the long run, it could create a source of revenue that can help fund an arts program in the City in addition to some of the other things that are in the works. There are security issues to consider and also insurance. This could be a real opportunity in working with Art Sandy Springs. The verge of the roundabouts in the City would be a perfect location for public art. He hopes that the City can leverage what is started in the City Springs area to broaden the public art program in public space. Communities that do this have a higher level of community satisfaction and involvement. The City has a very vivid, robust, and rich arts community in Sandy Springs. This is a way the City can help promote the local arts community as well as bring people from outside to visit. The consultants are saying if we allow the artists to sell their artwork, there are museums around the country that would like to bring their displays to the City, as well as local artists. He is continuing to have conversations with some of the major arts institutions in the metro Atlanta area who have an interest in City Springs, too. A major arts institute in Atlanta is definitely interested and eager in being able to partner with City Springs in the theatrics, visual, and other performing arts. If we do this right, we have a real opportunity to create a great gathering place and to create a great art institution for the community. He will support all of these suggestions going forward.

Director of Communications Kraun stated the City has been working with the committee on creating programs for the schools. These would be shows where the students can showcase their artwork.

Council Member John Paulson stated this is a good idea. He asked how the City will get involved in advertising artwork and who decides what artwork will be displayed.

Mayor Paul stated that is why there will be a committee. We need to be sure there is high quality artwork, and the committee members have the experience, expertise, and connections to be able to ensure that the art displayed in City Springs is good quality artwork. There will need to be a policy and people who know

the art world can help the City make sure we do this to the highest possible quality. That is why he chose the people he did to be on the committee.

Director of Communications Kraun continued with page seven of the presentation.

Mayor Paul stated there are amazing people in this community that love Sandy Springs. They want to give the City items, but the City does not want to be a bad recipient. Sometimes the donors give specific requests to the City that just do not fit. The City has tried on a couple of occasions to take what a donor wants to give, but the City has not been able to find an appropriate usage for the item. It is difficult, because there are very well meaning people that want to give wonderful gifts. The City needs a process for people who want to be generous to the City, so they can fulfill their goals of generosity, but fit them within the City's established needs.

Council Member Tibby DeJulio stated he has a problem with the City getting involved as an art gallery. Having an art gallery to show off the local art in the City is wonderful. The City getting involved in selling the art can be an issue. He asked what happens if there is a problem with the art being sold. For the City to showcase art on an even basis is great, but the City should not compete with local art galleries by being involved with selling the art. The City could use its own local art gallery. Maybe we should use this as an incentive in the City Springs area. The City should not be in competition with local businesses. He thinks this idea will cause the City issues in the long term.

Mayor Paul stated it may be worthwhile to have the art community attend a City Council meeting and address Council on how they do that in their current environment.

Council Member DeJulio stated the new city hall will be a public space owned by all the citizens in the City. There have been discussions about attracting better businesses to the City. This might be a perfect opportunity to get a better business that would handle local artists. Getting the City involved from a business aspect is not the way to go.

Council Member Ken Dishman stated he initially shared some of the concerns Council Member DeJulio addressed. In similar scenarios we have a public space that has a specific use, like the tennis center, that partners with the private sector. Effectively, the City is doing that with Spectra, who will be managing the Performing Arts Center (PAC). More data needs to be gathered before Council can definitively approve this. The citizens are investing in a world class facility. Having a forum within that for visual art is very appealing.

Council Member Gabriel Sterling stated he is going to disagree somewhat with Council Member DeJulio. This is a situation where it is not competing so much with the private sector. He has seen in many cities and states that when a City makes a commitment to the arts in this way, it leads to the art galleries moving to the City. This will not be competing, but will be enhancing the opportunity for an art gallery to come to the City. He would love to see a signature art gallery located in Buckhead move to Sandy Springs. If the City allows the artists to sell their work, we will have higher quality and broader visual arts, as opposed to what happens in most cities when they don't allow selling of the art. We are trying to make this a dynamic space and get the most use out of it for the public investment we are making. This is a much better way to achieve that goal and achieve the long term goal of bringing more art galleries to Sandy Springs. This is an important item to move forward on, but it also needs more data.

Council Member Paulson stated he does not disagree with the idea of showcasing high quality art in the Performing Arts Center. The challenge is the business side of this. He would like to understand how other cities do this.

Director of Communications Kraun stated there are a couple of different ways to sell the art. Someone can be in the PAC who receives the money for the artwork. Interested buyers could purchase directly from the artist, maybe through a website. In that case, the artist can be paid 100% of the cost, or there can be an

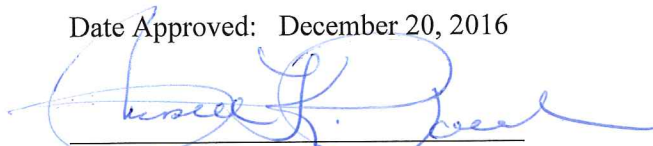
agreement with the artist that the City will receive a percentage of the revenue. There could be an ambassador at City Springs during certain times to sell the artwork. The buyer could come to City Hall at that time and purchase the artwork with a debit card and the money would go to an arts fund. There are many different ways this could be done.

Council Member Chris Burnett stated he strongly encourages people to visit the art gallery at Holy Innocents. He is consistently amazed at the artwork there. He is not sure if that is because the art is for sale. If the same caliber of artwork can be at City Springs, it will speak well for our City. Regarding the business aspect, he suggested a foundation be set up to act as an intermediary and coordinate that space. The funds received could go to the arts foundation. Selling artwork at City Springs is something we should look at. It will enhance the facility and the City.

There was a consensus of Council to move forward with establishing policy for the suggested plan.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Date Approved: December 20, 2016



Russell K. Paul, Mayor

Michael D. Casey, City Clerk