



**Czech Village New Bohemia SSMID Public Art Meeting Minutes
June 8, 2020 | 1:00-2:00 p.m. | Zoom Meeting**

The Czech Village New Bohemia SSMID Commission met virtually for a public art meeting. Those present are listed below. The meeting was held as an electronic regular Commission meeting because a meeting in person was impossible or impractical due to concerns for the health and safety of Commissioners, staff and the public presented by COVID-19.

Present: Craig Byers, Lijun Chadima, Pam Lewis, Ana McClain, Chad Pelley, James Piersall, Bob Schaffer

Absent: Stephanie Jelinek

Guests: Abby Huff & Monica Vernon – Main Street, Janelle McClain – Public Art Committee Member, Jennifer Pratt – City of Cedar Rapids

Economic Alliance Staff: Jessica Komisar, Doug Neumann, Phil Wasta

Welcome and Call to Order

Piersall welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

Mural Project

Piersall said the Novak family is excited about this project and have agreed to let the mural be on the side of the Graham Construction building. There will be a façade easement on the building so if they sold the building within 10 years, whoever purchases it wouldn't be able to remove the mural. The City owns the two grass lots next to the building and we will be entering an agreement with the City that the mural view will be protected for 10 years and if a developer blocks the mural, the SSMID will be reimbursed by the City for what we spent on the mural. The City is also allowing us to establish a pocket park of sort in the green area in front of the mural, however we will be responsible for the maintenance and mowing.

The SSMID had originally allocated \$7k for public art this calendar year without knowing details but after speaking with Murals & More, the mural estimate is \$15-\$20k. Murals & More said they would help with some fundraising efforts but the SSMID would also need to be involved in other fundraising. As of right now, the Novaks haven't committed to a match. Piersall asked the SSMID for authority to spend up to \$20k for the mural project - \$7k out of the public art line item and up to \$13k from undesignated reserves with the opportunity to raise some of those funds as well. Neumann said as of the beginning of this calendar year, the SSMID had around \$57k in undesignated reserves.

Chadima asked if Main Street is involved in this project along with the SSMID. Piersall said Main Street has been helpful in conversations with the Novaks and will be a collaborative partner but this will be a SSMID project. Schaffer asked if Main Street will be contributing funds. Vernon said if Murals and More wants the grant they received for paint, they would be happy to contribute that but don't have other dollars in the budget to donate. Piersall told commissioners he will circulate the mural image concept to commissioners but it is a Mucha image with "Czech Village" at the bottom. Lewis asked if the image is in public domain. Vernon said she has worked with lawyers and done research and believes it is public domain. Chadima asked how big the mural will be. Byers said an estimate of about 1,300 sq ft.

Chadima said she would like to see our reserves go towards other efforts and would be willing to use \$7k from reserves but not up to \$13k. Byers said he disagrees with that and said we need to have access to the funds and can still fundraise on our own. Vernon said Sue Novak contacted her and said they would contribute \$500, Lewis said the Czech Village

Association acknowledged they would want to contribute as well. Byers moved approval to use up to \$13k from reserves in addition to the \$7k public art line item for this mural project with Pelley seconding. The motion was approved with a 6-1 vote with Chadima not approving.

Adjourn

Lewis moved to adjourn the meeting with Byers seconding. The meeting was adjourned at 1:37 p.m.