



Rochester City Council

Community Development Committee

MEETING MINUTES

Elaine Lauterborn, Chairperson

Donna Bogan, Vice Chairperson

Tom Abbott

Jeremy Hutchinson

James Gray

Meeting Date:	Monday, December 10, 2018	
Members Present:	Tom Abbott Donna Bogan James Gray Elaine Lauterborn	Members Absent: Jeremy Hutchinson
Guests/Staff:	Jennifer Murphy Aubin, Rochester Economic Development Executive Secretary Jennifer Marsh, Rochester Economic Development Specialist Matthew Winders, Rochester Main Street	

Councilor Lauterborn called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Motion was made by Councilor Gray and seconded by Councilor Bogan to approve the October 9, 2018 minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously.

PUBLIC INPUT	There was no public input.
ROCHESTER MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS – Public Sculpture Project	<p>Ms. Murphy Aubin presented on the proposed public sculpture project on behalf of the Rochester Museum of Fine Arts (RMFA). RMFA has collaborated with the Economic Development Office previously on other public art projects, such as the downtown murals project. The public sculptures would be located near the China Palace area and installed in spring 2019. The sculptures were created by Barrington sculptor Adam Pearson.</p> <p>Ms. Murphy Aubin mentioned that unlike other art installations, public sculptures could be moved to other locations if desired. The proposed project has been reviewed by Economic Development Manager Karen Pollard and City Manager Blaine Cox prior to the project being referred to the Community Development Committee. The proposed cost for the project is \$4,000, which is currently available in the Economic Development Office funds set aside for the project.</p>

	<p>Councilor Abbott asked if the sculptures would interfere with winter snow plowing. Ms. Murphy Aubin said that she and Mr. Wyatt reviewed the proposed installation sites and proposed sculptures and believe that there is adequate clearance for plowing.</p> <p>Councilor Lauterborn asked if the sculptures have already been created. Ms. Murphy Aubin stated that they have been and that photographs of the sculptures were included in the Committee agenda packet. Councilor Lauterborn asked if any alternate locations have been discussed. Ms. Murphy Aubin replied that the Community Center and library were considered but that a main thoroughfare location was preferred.</p> <p>Councilor Lauterborn suggested that the riverwalk area near the former Foster’s building also be considered. Councilor Bogan stated that this area has been planned for use for an interactive installation by the Riverwalk Committee.</p> <p>Councilor Lauterborn asked if the City would own the art or whether the sculptor would retain ownership. Ms. Murphy Aubin stated that the City of Rochester would have ownership. Councilor Gray asked if the \$4,000 couldn’t be better spent elsewhere, such as on the in-progress wayfinding project.</p> <p>Motion was made by Councilor Bogan and seconded by Councilor Lauterborn to recommend that the City Council support the proposed public sculpture project. Motion passed, three to one.</p> <p>Mr. Winders stated that the sculpture project would be a great addition downtown and that the downtown needs more public art.</p>
ROCHESTER FARMERS MARKET PRESENTATION	<p>Ms. Marsh explained that when the Rochester Farmers Market was first formed, the organizers decided to serve in leadership for a period of three years to get the market started. That period of three years is now coming to a closure. Ms. Marsh stated that there are several available options for moving forward: to remain under Rochester Main Street, for the City of Rochester to create an LLC for the market, to hire a manager for the market.</p> <p>Councilors Gray and Abbott discussed trade name and LLC registration and renewal timelines. Councilor Lauterborn asked if the market has been breaking even or losing money. Ms. Marsh</p>

stated that so far the market has been breaking even due to sponsorships for music and volunteer management. Additional funding would be required to hire a paid part-time manager.

Councilor Lauterborn asked if the market manager would be a City employee. Councilor Gray stated that the manager would be a Rochester Main Street employee, as Rochester Main Street is the fiscal agent. Councilor Gray suggested reaching out to entities such as Gerry's Food Pantry to see if there is interest in taking over the farmers market. Councilor Lauterborn suggested that a market manager could be hired as a seasonal City employee.

Councilor Abbott asked how much money the City receives via food licenses. Ms. Marsh stated that food licenses are \$25 for the season and, if the vendors sell other items, a hawkers and peddlers license is \$150. Ms. Marsh mentioned that vendors also pay fees to participate in the farmers market. Councilor Abbott asked how many vendors participate. Ms. Marsh replied that the number of vendors ranges from 18 to 22 vendors per market. Councilor Abbott asked if that wouldn't mean that the farmers market doesn't pay for itself.

Ms. Marsh mentioned that if the Care Pharmacy property owner ever disallows use of the parking lot by vendors, such a prohibition could jeopardize the market. Possible alternate locations, under such circumstances, would include the former Advanced Recycling site on Wallace Street or Hanson Street.

Councilor Lauterborn stated that the raised issues will be brought to the full City Council for further deliberation and suggested that Ms. Marsh discuss the possibility of the Recreation Department hiring on a seasonal market manager with the City Manager. Councilor Gray suggested that the farmers market discussion be added to the January 2019 Community Development Committee agenda.

Ms. Marsh added that the Rochester Rotary Club has \$25,000 available to fund a beneficial downtown project. Potential ideas suggested have included a skate park and a percussion park on the riverwalk.

<p>WORKFORCE HOUSING CHARRETTE – Charrette Report</p>	<p>Mr. Long gave a brief overview on the final charrette report and the charrette team’s recommendations, which included increasing density allowances and waivers for first-floor commercial requirements. Councilors Abbott and Bogan expressed concerns about waiving first-floor commercial requirements but support for increasing density allowances.</p> <p>Councilor Lauterborn asked if the Planning Board has approved the proposed change to density limitations, and Councilor Gray confirmed that the Planning Board had done so.</p> <p>Mr. Long also discussed density bonuses for housing projects that include affordable or workforce housing units and mentioned that the City of Portsmouth has such bonuses.</p> <p>An overview of the workforce housing charrette and the final charrette report are available on the City of Rochester’s website at https://www.rochesternh.net/community-development-division/pages/downtown-rochester-housing-workshop.</p>
<p>PROGRAMS REPORT – CDBG Projects, Other Grant Projects</p>	<p>Mr. Long gave a brief overview of continuing CDBG projects. The tennis court lights project at the Community Center will be completed before the spring 2019 tennis season, and the two school department chairlift projects are scheduled to be completed over the school department winter break.</p> <p>Mr. Long also stated that FY 2019-2020 CDBG grant applications are due December 14, 2018. (Originally the deadline was December 13th, but an error listed the deadline as “Friday, December 13th” rather than Thursday. The extension will ensure no one misses the deadline due to this error.) Councilor Lauterborn asked if the East Rochester Library has submitted a CDBG grant application. Mr. Long replied that the library has applied for general city funds for general operating expenses and for CDBG funds for building renovation projects. Mr. Long added that he has also provided a list of other possible funding sources, including historic building restoration resources, to the East Rochester Library.</p> <p>Mr. Long then provided updates on non-CDBG grants. Bridging the Gaps is in the process of finalizing an agreement with Seacoast Youth Services to have Seacoast Youth Services take over the program in spring 2019, once the federal grant has ended. Also, the City of Rochester has been awarded a brownfields remediation grant from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental</p>

	<p>Services to remediate soil contamination at the former Advanced Recycling site on Wallace Street.</p> <p>Mr. Long finally discussed COAST's ongoing Comprehensive Operations Analysis. All of the in-person public listening sessions have concluded, but the community survey is still being conducted. Councilor Gray mentioned that he attended the Farmington public listening session but was unable to attend the Rochester session as it was the same night as the Rochester candidates' forum.</p>
OTHER BUSINESS	<p>Councilor Lauterborn asked the Committee if they would like to have the FY 2019-2020 grant applicants present at the January 2019 Community Development Committee meeting. The Committee said they would like to do so.</p>

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Next Meeting – Monday, January 14, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in Isinglass and Cocheco Conference Rooms in City Hall Annex (33 Wakefield Street)

Topics – FY 2019-2020 Grant Application Presentations, FY 2019-2020 CDBG Annual Action Plan, Rochester Farmers Market, Projects Program Report, JOB Loan Program Report

Rochester Museum of Fine Arts
150 Wakefield Street
Rochester, NH 03867

Wednesday October 3, 2018

RE: \$4,000 Proposal – Art & Culture Initiatives, a partnership with *Rochester Main Street*, funding request for cost of materials sculpture and installation, an art sculpture project as a gateway to downtown revitalization and beautifying the City of Rochester, NH

Dear Ms. Karen Pollard,

On behalf of the Rochester Museum of Fine Arts, we thank the City of Rochester and the Office of Economic and Community Development's support of the Rochester Museum of Fine Arts public art projects in the historic downtown district, with the successful installation of art to cover boarded windows in the downtown. Our mission is to inspire creative change and enhance the visual impact of our city.

Based on the success of this project, we are proposing another art project comprised of a series of metal sculptures that will serve as a gateway to the City of Rochester's historic downtown, welcoming visitors, businesses and community members to the City.

In collaboration with the Rochester Main Street organization as we did with our first mural project, we look forward to promoting the community's great art projects, public partnerships and dedicated stewardship of our art and cultural resources.

The site is located along Columbus Ave/Route 125 and South Main Street. The Museum selected local artist, Adam Pearson, a sculptor from Barrington, NH. He will be installing three large metal abstract sculptures. Attached are sculpture designs to articulate the vision for the public art.

Thank you in advance for the consideration.

Sincerely,



Matt Wyatt
President, Rochester Museum of Fine Arts, www.rochestermfa.org/public-art

Sculpture Examples



Art Sculpture Site

