

**Public Meeting of the
Art in Public Places Advisory Board
Tuesday, February 13, 2018, 5:15 p.m.
City of Bonita Springs
9101 Bonita Beach Road, Room 118
Bonita Springs, Florida 34135**

MINUTES

I. ROLL CALL

Present

Nigel Fullick
Jackie Hauserman
Joanie Licitra
Jennifer Perry
Janet Flanders
Susan Bridges

Staff

Nicole Perino

Public

Thomas Sanders

II. PRESENTATIONS FROM THE THREE FINALISTS, DIANE HEIN AND JENNIFER SANDERS, KRISTIN PIMENTEL AND THOMAS KELLER FROM THE LETTERS OF INTEREST RFP 17-29 FOR ARTIST COTTAGE #2

Diane Hein and Jennifer Sanders Proposal

Jennifer Sanders introduced herself and her husband Thomas.

Diane Hein introduced herself and her cousin Judy Murphy.

Ms. Sanders addressed the Board stating they loved the area and loved being involved. They do pine needle basketry using pine needles and natural elements. They pick out the needles, wash them and prepare them, putting one pine needle in at a time then sewing it. Ms. Sanders explained she started in cloth coils first making sure they were all 100% cotton and all natural. She progressed to the pine needle coils. She has worked with palm fronds, twisting, sewing and putting them in a coil. She has also worked with gourdes. The gourdes do not come from here but she bought the seeds and a friend up north grows them. She stitches pine needles around the gourds to embellish. Ms. Hein said they have done several presentations and displays to local organizations including the Fort Myers Garden Club and the Shell Island Garden Club on Sanibel. They enjoy sharing what they make and love to collect nature and put it in their displays. They have done several talks on the history sharing what they have learned. They have been invited to this year's Arbor Day event for the City.

Ms. Flanders asked about their price range. They responded the average price is \$50 to \$70. Because their art is not something you can sell at a Farmers Market. Each piece takes 30 to 40 hours, or more. They hand pick the pine needles one by one, take them home wash and dry them.

Mr. Fullick asked the Board if they had any questions.

Ms. Hauserman did not have any questions.

Ms. Flanders asked how often they plan to be at the cottage. They said at least 4 or 5 days a week. Mr. Fullick asked if they would be willing to provide a schedule. They replied yes and asked if the cottages were advertised. Mr. Fullick replied that the cottages are advertised on the City website. Mr. Fullick stressed that they are looking for the cottages to be utilized. Ms. Perino stated they don't have a schedule on the web site because they don't have a schedule from the artists. Mr. Fullick stated he would like to see a schedule from the artists.

Mr. Fullick asked how long have they been working together? They answered they have been working together for 3 years.

Mr. Fullick asked if they would consider doing classes. They answered yes, they would consider teaching.

Mr. Fullick asked if they had a website. They answered no, but they both have Facebook pages. Mr. Fullick recommended a website.

Ms. Perry did not have any questions.

Ms. Bridges asked if they used a sealant. They use shellac and sometimes Mod Podge.

Ms. Hein asked when they would know. Mr. Fullick explained the Board sends their recommendation to City Council and they make the final decision. Ms. Perino stated it will go before City Council on February 21, 2018.

Kristin Pimentel Proposal

Ms. Pimentel thanked the Board for having her and was thrilled to get elected. Ms. Pimentel moved here 11 years ago from Massachusetts and lives in North Naples. She started her artwork about 4 or 6 years ago. She started by making a mirror for herself and received so many comments and compliments, she decided to pursue and took the plunge to go for it and build a business. Ms. Pimentel works out of her home and is primarily a referral based business making custom mirrors for homes. She sells her artwork on Etsy, an online website for vintage and handmade items. She does a little bit of wholesale to some coastal living lifestyle shops. Her work is spread out around Florida and she has been shipping to Ohio and California; the coastal cities seem to really grab it. Ms. Pimentel is interested in a studio/gallery/retail shop. A place

where she can work and have visitors watch her work. She would like to be there 5 days a week, regular hours. There are 6 cottages, 4 are occupied.

Ms. Pimentel would like to see Bonita Springs grow to be an artist destination. She sees downtown Bonita as an attraction for people to come and witness the art, attend happy fun events and it's free. She has been a guest artist at the events and likes to be there at the events. She has helped artist Matt Kearney, Cottage number 5.

Ms. Pimentel is fluent in social media and she prints out flyers for events and deliver them all along Old 41. She has reached out to all her artist friends and taught them how to market themselves.

Mr. Fullick asked the Board if they had any questions.

Ms. Bridges did not have any questions.

Ms. Perino wanted to know if Ms. Pimentel would be able to provide a schedule of when she would be open so it could be posted on the City Website. Ms. Pimentel said yes.

Ms. Perry asked where she found the shells, was it local or other sources. Ms. Pimentel replied both, she gets them through other distributors and they get them out of the country. Ms. Pimentel tries to incorporate local shells so it gives it the right look and feel. She uses local shells on her white Christmas trees. Ms. Pimentel tries to have something for everyone in all prices.

Ms. Perry asked how much she charges for the mirrors. Ms. Pimentel replied, using examples she brought with her, the mirrors range from \$700 with bigger version of it is \$1100. She would offer items for the home and accessories.

Ms. Licitra did not have any questions.

Ms. Hauserman did not have any questions, but thanked Ms. Pimentel for the promotional ideas for the cottages. Mr. Fullick agreed and said it's going to take everyone to take it upon themselves to promote. Ms. Pimentel explained they all figure out who can do what and delegate it out. Ms. Pimentel has a vested interest in seeing that area grow.

Ms. Flanders asked if Ms. Pimentel would actually work in the cottages. Ms. Pimentel replied yes, if she can get all her material there, some may not fit. Mr. Fullick asked if her plan was to have hours there. Ms. Pimentel said yes, and stated the more artist that can do that, the more it's going to be a destination.

Mr. Fullick asked where the starfish come from. Ms. Pimentel replied she gets them from overseas but was not able to determine whether or not they were live. Ms. Pimentel herself never takes anything live from off our beaches.

Thomas Keller Proposal

Mr. Keller introduced his wife, Sandra and their daughter Meca. Mr. Keller moved to Naples 4 years ago, but stated he loves Bonita Springs and says he is enthralled with the area and loves the diversity of Bonita Springs. He loves the mixture of old and new.

Mr. Keller stated no one does art sculptures in the fine art form like he does. He also does paintings and pastels. His most popular items are his wood sculptures. Mr. Keller previously worked in a gallery in Los Angeles and Atlanta and now that they live in Southwest Florida he feels the artist cottages offer a good venue for his work and he feels the diversity of his work would attract visitors. Mr. Keller stated he brings three important qualities before the Board for consideration:

Diversity through Art

Leadership

Natural passion for Bonita Springs.

Mr. Keller stated he would be participating in the events and perhaps do demonstrations. Mr. Keller clarified he would not use the chainsaw for the demonstration, he would bring a piece of partially shaped work then he could talk to people. Also, he was not thinking of doing the work involving a chainsaw in the cottage. Mr. Keller stated it is a unique craft with a fine art style to it.

Ms. Bridges stated Mr. Keller answered her question about doing the wood carving in the cottage. Mr. Keller reiterated he would not do it there.

Ms. Perino asked if Mr. Keller would you have a particular schedule that he would post or let Parks and Rec post. Mr. Keller asked how it would be posted. Mr. Fullick responded it would be posted on the city website. Ms. Perino would love to have a schedule that she could post.

Ms. Perry asked about the price point for Mr. Keller's art. Mr. Keller replied from \$500 to \$5000 for sculptures; paintings go from \$500 to \$1500 to a max of \$2500. Mr. Keller does a lot of abstract landscapes. He has traveled to Egypt, India, Kenya and Peru and does a lot of ancient artwork from those parts of the world.

Mr. Fullick asked how long he has been doing this work. Mr. Keller replied he started in Los Angeles 18 years ago with a gallery and was selling pastels, which was his first medium.

Mr. Fullick asked about his website and asked if it was something where he would incorporate the artist cottages. Mr. Keller replied yes and he would like to incorporate the artist cottages and have open houses.

Ms. Licitra did not have any additional questions.

Ms. Hauserman said all her questions were answered.

Ms. Flanders asked when he would be at the cottage. Mr. Keller responded he would probably be there on a regular basis 3 days a week in the afternoon from 2 to 6 p.m. and on the weekends from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. or 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mr. Keller has a handyman business so he would be doing that in the morning. Mr. Fullick asked if his other business would be part of the artist cottages; Mr. Keller replied no it would not.

Nigel thanked Mr. Keller and explained that we will make the recommendation to City Council for next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, February 21 at 9 a.m. and Council will most likely make the decision at that meeting.

Mr. Keller added one more side note, he has done a few construction art projects designing walking paths with flagstone and different material. He recently completed a walking labyrinth.

III. DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION TO CITY COUNCIL OF THE THREE FINALISTS FROM THE LETTERS OF INTEREST RFP 17-29 FOR ARTIST COTTAGE #2

Ms. Perino noted there was no public comment.

Mr. Fullick opened the discussion stating they picked three good candidates. Mr. Fullick asked, when reviewing the candidates, if they would consider who brings the most to the table.

Ms. Bridges stated her first choice is Diane Hein and Jennifer Sanders because they are working with a natural product that is part of our environment. As well, it is in the culture from here and Ms. Bridges thinks that is a really important thing. Ms. Bridges stated they are striving to put their own mark on it and they are planning to be at the cottage six times a week.

Ms. Bridges stated Kristen Pimentel does lovely work, but most of the material does not come from here.

Ms. Bridges really liked Mr. Keller's wood carvings but she is sensing he will not be here all the time because he has a full time job and it will be a struggle for him to be there. And he's only going to try to do events and be there on the weekends.

Ms. Perry agreed with Ms. Bridges stating they have this great location and they want to encourage people to drop in and visit the artist. Ms. Perry considered which of the candidates would be able to demonstrate what they do and the magical word for Ms. Perry was education. Ms. Perry thinks that's important for the city and what they are trying to do. Ms. Perry stated it would be challenging for the other two artists to do demonstrations for visitors.

Ms. Hauserman agrees but stated she did like Ms. Pimentel's shells and she has incredible marketing skills and would promote more than the other two and bringing people into the cottages more than anyone else. Ms. Hauserman said it is something they really need.

Regarding Ms. Pimentel, Ms. Hauserman agrees about the concern about the source of the shells in her work.

Ms. Hauserman stated as good as Mr. Keller's work is, he would be her third choice.

Ms. Flanders stated she has not changed her mind from the last time. Diane Hein and Jennifer Sanders would fit in there. Ms. Flanders stated Diane Hein and Jennifer Sanders also offered earrings for sale, which she thinks would give a nice price range for people if they needed a gift and encourage people to visit the cottages. And Ms. Pimentel is already participating.

Mr. Fullick said it is the simple fact that Mses. Hein and Sanders are going to be 100 percent vested. They bring quality and it's a classic art form and the teaching part was huge. They would be good ambassadors. I think they would adapt and get a website. They were ready willing and able to provide a schedule.

Ms. Licitra said she listened to them and poured through all the paperwork. She can envision having visitors here and seeing a work in progress and handing it to a child and having that child try to figure out how it's done and having the ladies tell the child that it belongs to an ancient art form. Ms. Licitra looked at that and thinks that's what the cottages are for and what they were intended to do.

Mr. Fullick would like to send a thank you letter to the candidates and noted it's not a small point that Ms. Pimentel is already there on a part time basis. Mr. Fullick requested a motion to suggest to Council that after review all the three candidates, the Board would like to place them in the order discussed.

Ms. Jennifer Perry made a motion to suggest to City Council that, after review of all three candidates, the Art in Public Places Board placed them in the following order:

- 1. Diane Hein/Jennifer Sanders***
- 2. Kristen Pimentel***
- 3. Thomas Keller***

and that the Art in public Places Board strongly feels that Diane Hein and Jennifer Sanders fit the parameters of what the Board is looking for in the artist cottages. Ms. Joanie Licitra seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Perino asked the Board if they all agreed this was a unanimous decision. The Board concurred yes.

IV. BOARD AND STAFF ITEMS

Ms. Perino reported at last meeting, the Board approved the DeDeckers coming back to do maintenance on the sculptures, Ms. Perino is going to get that going.

Ms. Perino reported that Ms. Hunter has processed the final payment to Mr. Stinchcomb for the mural on the 2-Blessed building.

Ms. Perino advised the Board that there was a little issue with the three panels on the mural being vandalized. It appears like a child tried to draw their initials with a sharpie. Ms. Perino said they had the sheriff's unit come and look and they determined it wasn't tagged. The situation is being addressed and the clean-up is already being done. It's not going to be a big cost to repair. Ms. Perry asked when it happened. Ms. Perino said it happened last week. Mr. Fullick advised the less of a big deal they make about it, the better. Ms. Perino agreed saying they don't want to invite publicity to it so it doesn't invite copy cats.

Ms. Hauserman complimented the article in Spotlight, "New mural depicts history of south Florida" *SPOTLIGHT Bonita Springs News Magazine*, January 16, 2018. Ms. Hauserman said it was a good article, well written.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF December 12, 2017

Note: The January 30, 2018 meeting minutes are not yet provided. Will be on the next meeting agenda for approval.

Ms. Janet Flanders made a motion to accept the December 12, 2017 minutes, Ms. Susan Bridges seconded; motion passed unanimously.

VI. APPROVE NEXT MEETING – 03/13/18

Next meeting date confirmed for March 13, 2018.

Ms. Flanders will not be present for the March 13, 2018 meeting.

Mr. Fullick reported that Mr. Hemrick will be resigning from the Art in Public Places Board due to work commitments. Mr. Hemrick will be sending in his letter of resignation. Mr. Hemrick relayed that he has enjoyed his time on the Art in Public Places Board.

Mr. Fullick stated that they will be advertising and asked Nicole to please let them know the time commitment involved. Mr. Fullick feels they need to consider people who are residents and business owners. Mr. Fullick thanked the Board and told them he appreciates all they do.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Nadine Chiamonte, Office Assistant

APPROVED:

Date: 5/02/2018

ATHENTICATED:


Nigel P. Fullick, Chairman

ANY PERSON REQUIRING SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS AT ANY OF THE MEETINGS BECAUSE OF A DISABILITY OR PHYSICAL IMPAIRMENT SHOULD CONTACT MEG WEISS, DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AT 239-949-6262, AT LEAST 48 HOURS PRIOR TO THE MEETING. IF A PERSON DECIDES TO APPEAL A DECISION MADE BY THE COUNCIL IN ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT THIS MEETING/HEARING, SUCH PERSON MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDING IS TO BE MADE, TO INCLUDE THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH ANY SUCH APPEAL IS TO BE BASED.

TWO OR MORE MEMBERS OF THE BONITA SPRINGS CITY COUNCIL MAY BE PRESENT AND MAY PARTICIPATE AT THE MEETING. THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THIS MEETING MAY BE AN ITEM FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION AT A FUTURE BONITA SPRINGS CITY COUNCIL MEETING.