



## General Government & Social Services

June 5, 2018

### Summary and Motions

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Chair Lamb called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. Committee members Evans, Kay, Moloney, J. Brown, Smith, Farmer, F. Brown, and Henson were present. Committee member Stinnett was absent. Council Members Gibbs and Plomin were also in attendance as non-voting members.

#### **I. Approval of May 1, 2018 Committee Summary**

A motion was made by CM Farmer to approve the May 1, 2018 General Government & Social Services Committee Summary, seconded by CM Henson. The motion passed without dissent.

#### **II. Public Art Master Plan**

CM Farmer Jr. introduced Jenifer Wuorenmaa who provided the presentation. Wuorenmaa highlighted various city properties in Lexington that currently have public art to create a mental picture of planning for this in municipal governments and to illustrate the benefits of public art for a community. She mentioned an inventory list that Lori Houlihan recently created that catalogs all of the public art in the city and she explained how a master plan would provide a systematic approach to creating and managing a public art collection. She highlighted Lexington's existing public art framework with the Urban County Arts Review Board, which is active with 10 members.

Wuorenmaa also pointed out that the Public Arts Commission was codified in 2002 which was designed to advise the mayor and Urban County Council on a long-range public art master plan. She explained that Public Arts Commission is inactive and has no membership and no funding mechanism to support the public art program. She said they are proposing to amend the Public Arts Commission ordinance, particularly the membership structure from 16 members down to 9. She said many cities with a vibrant public art scene have a percent-for-art program which is one way to identify a funding source. The working group is recommending the establishment of a public art acquisition fund with an annual designation of 1% of the total budgeted cost for general fund capital improvement projects to be dedicated to public art. She highlighted various public art projects from around the world and concluded the presentation by asking the committee to approve the resolution and the revisions to the public arts commission ordinance.

CM Moloney asked about the history of the creation of the Public Arts Commission. CM Farmer explained the idea was that anything we build has to have a percentage of art in it, but the administration at the time did not believe they could account for this. He said we had interest in it and wanted to move forward but we did not have the proper foundation to get there. He said the big difference this time is that the administration is supportive. He said this provides us with a plan that is actionable and gives us the opportunity to be ready with the funding and planning to have arts in Lexington on a consistent basis. CM Moloney expressed that he will support this.

CM J. Brown asked what role Lex Arts and UCARB would play with the Public Arts Commission. Wuorenmaa explained that Jonathan Hollinger recommended the two boards would merge into one entity once the Public Arts Master Plan is drafted and adopted. She explained that LexArts is very supportive of the project and she envisions the partnership with LexArts strengthening to complete the

Public Arts Master Plan. CM J. Brown asked if there was any anticipation of a duplication of service. Wuorenmaa explained how the plan will be administered and how some cities use a portion of the fund for the administration of the program. CM J. Brown asked where the majority of funding for public art comes from. Nan Plummer, President of LexArts said some of the funding is budgeted; in addition to that, there are grants and private contributions. Nathan Zamarron, Community Arts Director, said with the murals and horse mania, public interest has grown and groups are coming forward with funding for art projects. CM J. Brown said he is supportive of the proposal.

CM Plomin asked what level of funding this approach would provide on an annual basis. Wuorenmaa explained there is about \$2 million in the fund since the city started doing this in 2010. Wesley Holbrook, Administrative Office with Department of Finance, said he estimates about \$300,000 annually.

CM Henson asked if the Art in Motion shelters would be included because there are two in her district that need maintenance. Wuorenmaa explained that maintenance would be a critical component of the master plan. CM Henson said she would like some kind of reassurance that maintenance of the shelters would be included and that more could be installed.

CM Evans asked if the inventory list of art in the city that Lori Houlihan created was available. Wuorenmaa said that she would share the inventory list with council members. CM Evans said this could be put on our web site to advertise Lexington. Zamarron explained that LexArts has an interactive map on the public arts page of their website. CM Evans asked for more detail about how this would be funded. Holbrook explained that the arts acquisition fund would take a cash amount that is equivalent to 1% of the capital project bond package and transfer that from the general fund to the public arts acquisition fund. CM Evans commented on the need to target certain organizations for funding and asked if we could allow more at-large individuals. Plummer explained how public art will spread further out throughout the entire city because the city's interest will grow.

CM F. Brown asked where the \$300,000 will come from and who would manage the fund. Holbrook explained this is new money that would have to be budgeted and the Public Arts Commission would manage the fund. CM F. Brown asked for a comparison of other programs like this in the city. Holbrook said the Economic Development Investment Board that has the Jobs Fund which rolls every year is probably the closest comparison. CM F. Brown asked if LFUCG is accountable and if it would come back to Council as it is reviewed. Holbrook said that is correct. CM F. Brown said \$300,000 is a lot of money and asked if the board would decide how that money is spent. Wuorenmaa explained what she sees the approval process to look like for funding projects. CM F. Brown said he hopes this is representative of the whole city and not just downtown. He asked what involvement the Division of Parks and Recreation would have with this. Wuorenmaa explained the relationship with the Division of Parks and Recreation and the role art already plays in our parks. She provided an example in Duncan Park and the community involvement surrounding that.

CM Lamb suggested including Lex-Tran in discussions of the Public Arts Master Plan or having a seat on the board. She commented on the excitement surrounding the book benches project.

CM Moloney asked for an explanation of the program using bond money for funding and how that will work. Wuorenmaa explained that 1% would be added to the bond with the intent to spend this in 3-4 years, but that is open for discussion. CM Moloney asked why we don't request 1% of the bonded amount for each building that will require 1% of the total amount bonded to be used for art.

Wuorenmaa said this was discussed and she explained how the acquisition fund allows projects to take place throughout the city rather than being tied to specific projects and their locations. CM Moloney explained how the incremental amount won't allow for the development of large art projects, but doing this individually will make this more affordable.

CM F. Brown commented that the resolution does not state this will be bonded, but this is a formula to come up with a designated fund. He said he cannot support this if the bond will be increased by \$300,000. Wuorenmaa said they have discussed using bond money to fund the art or including the \$300,000 as a line item in the budget and they are fine with either option.

CM Evans expressed concern about the funding mechanism because she did not understand that we were using bond money. She said if this is going to be its own fund, we will have to find the money somewhere which brings its own issues and problems. Wuorenmaa explained the administration's goal for funding and how it was brought forward as part of the bond package; but the committee has the prerogative to fund this in a different way. CM Evans said if it was bonded, we would be looking at larger art projects. Wuorenmaa explained that the master plan would outline the needs for city, but the size of the project and the cost will vary. Holbrook added that in the past we have had both smaller and larger projects funded through the bond package.

CM Farmer explained that the resolution is written with flexibility so cash or bond funds could be used for the annual fund contribution. He said it is important to think of our county as the canvas and we have the opportunity for public art throughout the county so for that reason we should stick with a fund instead of making this site-specific. He explained that this gives us a base to work from and he has confidence that LexArts will find additional funding to enhance these projects. He said we have to make sure that we have set aside funds for maintenance so we can take care of this body of work. He said the Arts in Motion projects are works of art and would be included in this plan. He emphasized that the Urban County Council still retains the authority to approve the Public Arts Master Plan and the long-term impact of this. He said by placing art in our parks and neighborhoods and downtown, we are making Lexington better and enhancing quality of life; this is the beginning step toward a consistent future.

A motion by CM Farmer to Approve the Resolution and the reorganization of the Public Arts Commission to empower us for a Public Arts Master Plan and a funding mechanism with the addition of a section 2 to the resolution that states this is for projects over \$10 million which will have 1% budgeted for art for site specific projects, seconded by Peggy Henson, the motion passed without dissent.

CM Moloney explained how he would like the funding source split between bonding and cash to allow for all levels of projects. He said any project over \$10 million should have 1% of their own budget set aside for art. CM Farmer clarified that anything budgeted above \$10 million would have something site-specific to it and below that threshold would be part of the fund. He said we can make an addition to section 2 to provide this definition. (The committee accepted a friendly amendment to add a section 2 that will include site specific funding which is detailed in the motion above).

CM Evans asked why there is a rush on this and asked if we could have the Master Plan first before approving the funding. Zamarron emphasized the need for a Public Art Master Plan and the Public Arts Commission being formed will be tasked with developing this plan immediately. He said Lex Arts is responding to the art needs of the community but it needs to be a larger body that involves many sources coming up with a consensus of what is needed in our community. He said we need more

community-wide vision so we can make the most of the next few years. CM Evans said she does not feel there is an urgency to approve this today and she would like a little more time to think about it.

CM Lamb asked for clarification that the ordinance amendment would modify the Public Arts Commission which would work on the Public Arts Master Plan. Wuorenmaa stated that is correct and hopefully this will be augmented by help from other citizens of the community as well as LFUCG and Lex Art staff. She said this group will take the lead, but public meetings and public input will be included.

CM J. Brown asked about the site specific element to the amendment and said if we tie the contribution to the art project to a specific project that takes the equity piece out of it as opposed to sending the money to a central commission that is looking at the whole city. CM Moloney explained that with any new buildings over \$10 million it would allow bigger pieces of art that we can afford that will be a one-time expense. He said we want to do big art projects that are going to be here for generations to come. He said every year when we do a bond, we will separate the two and there may be times we do not have big projects and the \$300,000 can be used for other improvements. He said the only time you are going to get a big project is if it is a courthouse or something similar. He said they are always going to get the \$300,000 until someone comes in with a big project and then that money will come out. CM J. Brown said if it is going into the same fund, he will support it.

CM Lamb said she would distribute an updated resolution to the committee. She said if there are any questions or concerns, those can be addressed going forward.

### **III. Items Referred to Committee**

A motion was made by CM J. Brown to remove the public art master plan item from committee, seconded by CM Henson. The motion passed without dissent.

A motion was made by CM Farmer to adjourn, seconded by CM Evans. The motion passed without dissent.

The meeting adjourned at 2:29 p.m.

HA/KT  
8/7/2018