PUBLIC ARTS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
February 8, 2016
MINUTES

TIME & PLACE:
The Public Arts Board of the City of Truth or Consequences, New Mexico met at the
Public Library, 325 Library Lane, Truth or Consequences, New Mexico on Monday,
February 08, 2016 at 4:00 P.M.

PRESIDING OFFICER:
The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM.

ATTENDANCE:
   Sid Bryan, Tourism
   James Durham, Sierra Arts Council
   Eduardo Alicea, Art Representative
   Jia Apple, Business Community
   Juan Fuentes, City Manager
   Other Staff Present: Linda Sparks
   Visitors Present: Jeff Barbour, Linda DeMarino, Jagger Gustin

QUORUM: There being a quorum present, the Board proceeded with the meeting.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: None.

REED ROCKETS PROJECT UPDATE:

Jeff Barbour began by saying that he has a reed with the fiberglass rods up on his front
yard swinging just fine and that it made it through the 50 mph winds of the other day.
He checked the fiberglass rods and they did not sustain any damage. The test piece
has been working out well. He referenced a sheet in his presentation that has the
relative base heights for the poles, starting at 6', ascending to 7'4", 8'11" and 10'8".
Jeff's goal is to make the reeds look level from a distance. He explained that in order to
do that he has to have the shortest reeds/poles in front and the taller ones in back so
they all look the same length as you drive up to it from the bottom of the hill, and as you
get up to it the back will appear to rise, creating an optical illusion. Jeff then referenced
another page of his presentation, the 'location grid'. It has the relative layout of all the
reeds showing the relationship to each other. The shortest row (3 poles), the second
row (3 poles) and third row (4 poles) have the poles 4' apart. The distance between
rows is 5'. The fourth row (4 poles) is 6' from the third row and the poles set 5' apart.
They will all look staggered because you won't be looking at it straight, but from an
angle as you will be looking at it from the road. The third sheet of his presentation
shows the dimensions of the project and its layout in the plot.
Jeff explained how he created the photo of the reed rockets. He put the 6' reed that he had made on a 6' pole and had Eduardo hold it up on a very windy day and took a picture. Next, he photo-shopped the one reed to simulate the 14 that will actually be up there in their relative locations and relative heights to each other.

Jeff made reference to the model that he brought with him. He stated that he determined that a concrete column is impractical, but a telephone pole will work out great. He reported that he met with Juan and Robbie Travis, the Building Inspector, and the comment was made that the pole isn’t really good-looking. Jeff said he would like to get 8" diameter telephone poles if he could. He referenced the model and explained that he would cover the outside of the pole with a piece of steel. He stated that he has tons of it. He continued to explain how they would be built.

James asked how the poles would be set in the ground. Jeff replied that the City has a pole setting machine.

Juan asked Jeff if he is proposing to use electric utility poles. Jeff replied, right. Juan continued, and the City would be drilling the holes for the 14 posts ranging from 6' to 10'8" plus whatever has to go in the ground. Juan asked how high the reeds are.

Jeff responded that the reeds run from about 10' to 15'. The whole thing would be about 25'-30' tall when it's done.

Sid and Jia both asked how much of it would be buried in the ground.

Jeff answered that it would stick about 3' in the ground.

Juan added that he has not met with the Electric Dept. Director because he felt the Advisory Board needed to meet and vote on the proposed design changes before proceeding any further. The current design has changed substantially from the original design the City Commission approved, therefore, it would have to go back to the City Commission for approval.

Jeff explained that because the reeds are mounted separately, they don't need the guardrail in the original design. You will be able to walk between and around them, making them a more interactive type of sculpture to the public. You can look at them sway in the wind over you.

Linda DeMarino asked how much weight each one bear, because she can see people swinging on them.

Jeff answered that the advantage of having them up higher is that it would be hard to get on, but if someone got up to it and started pulling on it with all their weight, you could probably break something. It would help to have a sign prohibiting misuse.

Linda DeMarino commented that there will be other exhibits at the park and that the original design was nice and compact, allowing visibility to the other exhibits and the
mural on the back wall. She is concerned that visibility to the rest of the art pieces will be reduced substantially by its size.

Jeff explained that the area it will occupy is 13'x18'x19'x20'. He referenced a diagram that shows the reeds occupying a small portion of the parcel on one corner.

Sid noted that because of their height, they will be above the mural or any of the other exhibits.

Juan asked Jagger if he is familiar with the proposed changes. Jagger replied that he is not and that they as a board have not. Juan replied that Jeff can give him a quick overview.

Jeff proceeded to explain the assembly of the base and referenced the diagrams and the model as he spoke. He answered several questions that were raised.

James asked how he is doing for time. Jeff answered that he's got all the steel for the wings. He has all the equipment to build things. He has to get more pipe for the actual reeds themselves; that's all he is missing.

Juan reminded everyone that what you will see initially is 14 poles. The completed project will be a different image than the one in the picture.

Jeff stated that it is stronger and safer than the original design. Juan stated that he is concerned about the section that flexes and where the base is mounted to the pole. Jeff restated that it is very safe.

Juan asked Jagger if they had to take it back to the Arts Council for a vote. Jagger replied, yes. Juan stated that he would have to take it back to the City Commission if the Board votes to proceed with the new design. Jeff was advised that he would be required to present his new design to the City Commission. The next City Commission meeting will be on February 23, 2016.

Linda DeMarino commented that she finds it difficult to get a good grasp of what it's going to look like from the one angle on the picture. It's difficult to see the space; is it going to look sparse. What's it going to look like from another angle? What's the park going to look like? She suggested doing a mockup from different angles.

James asked if we have an artist's inception of the park. Linda replied that she has pictures of the park that you can put a watercolor filter on it and it would be very similar.

Jia asked Linda if they have a layout for the park. Linda answered, we don't. They put in a request with Will Powell who is the architect and expects to hear from him within 2 weeks.

Jia asked Jeff if using electric poles for other than their intended use affect their durability over time. Jeff explained that the poles will be covered and it's probably a
good idea to put a cover on top that extends over the edge a little so rain can’t get in. It can also serve as a deterrent for anybody trying to climb up.

Linda stated that when they started working on the Healing Waters Plaza, they put the brakes on the Art Park. She doesn’t think they will have it done within the original timeframe. They have the architect coming in March to help plan it. This is not going to be done by June, therefore, we’re not pressed for time as we think we are.

Sid remarked that the installation of the Reed Rockets will be done for the Centennial Celebration in June. Others remarked in the affirmative.

Juan stated that if this design is approved, the logistics of that will have to be worked out. Juan wants to make sure that direction for the exact location comes from Jeff.

Jeff replied that he will put flags up where it has to go and added that they needed to talk about whether the City will provide the poles or if he will have to buy them.

Juan following up on a statement Jeff made earlier about a cost savings due to the redesign, asked if there is a cost savings to the entities.

Jeff replied that he would like to get to the end of the project and then determine if there is a cost savings. He stated that he’s put in a lot of his own money into this thing so far, i.e. all the steel that he bought a long time ago that he still has. He can do an accounting at the end that would have all the costs, all the equipment and all the material to negotiate what the total bill or cost savings would be. He mentioned that the down-payment on the project covered all the equipment he had to buy to build it. He will use the next payment, $1,400.00 to buy the rods. He already has the steel for the wings and the base, and the fiberglass rods came in today. He had to buy a spot welder and a MIG welder to get it built. The other rods he is still missing run about $140/a piece for a 20’ rod. He stated that he should be well within budget on the rods. He’s got to find someone who has a big sheer to do some fab work for him that can cut some pieces of steel.

Sid commented that he doesn’t think the Arts Council is necessarily looking to get money back and suggested that if there is any money left over, that is more money available to give to the City to help them with whatever expenses they had to put out.

Jeff stated that at the end, when it’s actually built and sitting on the ground ready for installation, he’ll give us a breakdown and it’s also when the last payment will come in. You can then negotiate how much extra we want to give him for being such a great artist and all the stuff that goes along with that. Anything left, the City will get it back.

James asked Juan how he felt about the project. Juan explained that he wants to make sure the City is protected from any liability. It’s Jeff’s design, but he’s asking the City to install some poles. It’s what Jeff thinks it’s going to hold. It’s obviously a change from the original proposal and that is why it has to go back before the City Commission. When we vote on a project, we don’t necessarily have this back and forth on price. Rather, this is what it is, this is how you are going to build it, this are the instructions; a
plan is presented and we know what we are getting ourselves into. My concern is all of the unknowns that have been brought up. Juan, speaking to Jeff, suggested that Jeff have a solid plan on what he will be doing, what his expectations are from the City so that we’re clear on the plan. Juan also suggested that he bring the model with him.

Jeff essentially had not tested the original design when he presented it. He explained that it wasn’t until he built the model and the real thing at the right size that he saw all the forces involved. The proposed redesign came from his experiments/testing of the original design. He will bring a couple of models and a video of it to present to the City Commission.

Bill, referencing the base assembly diagram, stated that the drawing shows a 2” solid pole. Jeff said that it’s the mounting and it’s not solid. Bill stated that the cut doesn’t show it’s hollow. It doesn’t show what’s inside it. Jeff, you’re right. Bill requested a drawing that shows what the support is inside. Jeff replied that not only can he provide a drawing, but he can show him an actual one. Bill requested both. Jeff asked how soon he wanted to see it. Bill answered, at your earliest convenience. Bill added that the City will be doing the permitting on it.

Juan commented that there are still some unknowns, safety wise. Jia interjected, when will it go to the Commissioners. Juan replied that if this Board recommends approval, it will go before the City Commission on 2/23/16.

Sid remarked that the safety issues are the City’s job. The Advisory Board approves the way it looks, but has nothing to do with the kind of decisions the City has to make.

Jagger stated that the Arts Council is holding $400.00+ in a line item that is earmarked for Reed Rockets. This is money left in that line item after they made the initial payment. Juan reminded everyone that the City can’t pay until the project is completed.

Sid asked for a motion to accept this as presented contingent upon the City doing its due diligence.

**James so moved, seconded by Eduardo, and it carried.**

Bill asked Jeff why he picked that vantage point to drive his entire concept. Jeff replied, because that’s when you first see it. Bill responded, not if you’re walking up Foch and turn and you look down Main St. Jeff explained that most of the people that come to town drive through town. He felt it was important that the first glimpse of it has a statement and create interest. As you get closer, it seems to move, and it sways, and will draw people to the park and to the stores.

Juan suggested to Linda that before the next City Commission meeting MainStreet and Jeff map out the exact location on the lot because the drawing makes it look like this huge lot with this very little small location, but it may be different when you go out there and see the dimensions of the actual lot.
Jeff stated that Robbie pulled up the chart from his computer and drew that based from what he pulled up.

Juan replied that it is different on the computer versus the actual visual on the park and still highly recommends it.

James asked Linda what her thoughts were. She replied that it would be nice to have other vantage points of the mockup. It's a lot bigger than initially planned, we were looking at a 10 S.F. space and now it's blown out. She is not opposed to it, but would like to see it from different angles.

Jeff stated that he could put a couple of different angles on it. Linda asked if it would be to scale. Jeff explained that the reeds in the back would be taller and the wings on them will be slightly bigger.

Jia commented that it will add to the street. She likes the design, her concern is being responsible for saying okay go forward with something that's going to be safe and isn't going to bite us in the butt. As far as the design goes, she thinks it will be determined by what else is going on in the park, how it flows. That is why she was asking Linda when that was going to come forth, do it simultaneously to see how this all flows as opposed to building around it, but not to slow it down at all.

Jeff stated that he will have the thing built, but not set until after the architect's visit in March. He will have everything built and ready to go by the end of April. He'll have the designs to show the architect in March and if he has a minor change on how this thing is going to go together, then there is some flexibility to do that.

Jia suggested that Jeff give Linda as many views as he can to help her decide how to proceed.

Jagger suggested that Jeff be asked to come before the Arts Council to present the design changes. The next meeting of the Arts Council is 3/08/16. Jagger suggested that they call a special meeting to get it done and out of the way. Juan remarked that it would be nice to have that already determined before the City Commission votes on it.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ARTS ADVISORY BOARD:
No other comments were made other than those made above.

TIME, PLACE AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING:
Linda was directed to cancel the regular meeting of 2/16/16. The next meeting of the Board will be Tuesday, March 21, 2016 at 4:00 P.M. in the conference room at City Hall, 505 Sims Street.

ADJOURN:
There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:50 P.M. James moved to adjourn, seconded by Sid, and it carried.
ATTEST:
Minutes were approved on March 21, 2016 on a motion made by Juan Fuentes and seconded by Sid Bryan, and it carried.

Linda Sparks
Secretary
Reed Rocket Base Assembly

Lag Bolts

Weld

Sheet Stainless, .08" 14 Gauge

8" Pole Wood
Reed Rocket Location Grid