

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CLEVELAND PUBLIC ARTS COMMITTEE

December 7, 2022

Members present: Myrtis Tabb, Betsy Abraham, Billy Trotter, Sean Johnson, Korkut Akacik, Cetin Oguz

Ex-Officio members present: Katie McClellan, Connie McClellan

Myrtis Tabb called the meeting to order at 2:00 P.M.

Approval of Minutes

Sean Johnson made a motion to approve August 30, 2022 minutes as presented, Billy Trotter seconded the motion. The vote of approval was unanimous.

New Business

Sean Johnson presented an idea for a project to install a life-size bronze statue of Robert Johnson walking to Rosedale on the north end of the green strip, near Highway 8. Sean told the story of Robert Johnson traveling from Dockery Plantation to Rosedale to play the blues. This statue would show the connection of Cleveland to other Delta blues sites, and would attract blues enthusiasts who visit the area. The statue would depict Robert Johnson walking toward Rosedale with his guitar over his shoulder. Interpretive signage will also be placed at the statue. Sean Johnson has spoken to Willie Simmons, Central District Transportation Commissioner regarding the placement of the statue near the highway, and Josh McPherson, city engineer. The cost of the statue will be around \$75,000 and plans are for the money to be solicited from donors. No taxpayer funds will be used for the statue. The members of the Public Arts Committee expressed their support for the project. Cetin Oguz and Billy Trotter will assist Sean Johnson as needed.

The Public Arts Committee discussed the need to change the ordinance and the application to encompass all public art and not be solely limited to murals. Katie McClellan will amend the ordinance and application to include the necessary language, and will present it to the committee at the January meeting.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Cleveland Public Arts Committee



Myrtis Tabb, Chair