

City of Brisbane

Agenda Report

To: City Council via City Manager

From: Stuart Schillinger, Administrative Services Director

Subject: Using Funds from the Public Art Fund, Refurbish the BEST/PTO Mural on Side of Mid-Town Market

Date: April 27, 2017

Purpose:

To improve the quality of life within the community by stimulating creativity, imagination, and a unique human quality to the community environment and enrich public spaces through works of art.

Recommendation:

Direct staff to begin the process of refurbishing the BEST/PTO Mural on the side of Midtown Market and allocate up to \$20,000 to complete the project.

Background:

In 2014 the City Council adopted an Ordinance which required development to either have an art component or to pay money into an in-lieu of fund for public art to be placed in an alternative location. The City Council directed the Parks and Recreation Commission to develop implementation guidelines for this ordinance. The City has collected approximately \$186,000 in in-lieu of fees from this ordinance. The City Council allocated up to \$20,000 in public art funds towards the art project at the new public library.

The Public Art subcommittee of the Parks and Recreation Commission has suggested that a portion of the in-lieu funds be used to refurbish the BEST/PTO mural on the side of Mid-Town Market. The mural was painted about 14 years as a fundraiser for BEST/PTO. Staff has researched what would be needed to do this project and has contacted the original artist, Mona Caron, regarding her availability to work on the project and what would be needed.

Discussion:

The first step in the process would be to work with the building owner to allow for the refurbishment of the Mural and attain a level of commitment from the property owner for the continued display of the mural. Staff had a very preliminary discussion with the owner and he expressed a willingness to allow the City to refurbish the mural at the City's expense. If this project was to go forward the City Attorney would need to draft an agreement for the work to proceed and to ensure the mural would not be removed for a set period of time.

The artist has suggested the following steps for refurbishing the mural:

1. Wash the whole wall with water and gentle soap, rub with terry towels, spray down

2. Rub solvent on wall to remove varnish product. We would need to test to make sure the solvent only removes the varnish and does not affect the paint beneath. After the right solvent is found the whole wall would need to be done in about 2 square feet sections at a time. This will allow the person to ensure the solvent is neutralized with a water sponge before it dries. (Mona would test the varnish and then train someone else on how to do it. According to the artist this is a time intensive activity.)
3. Refurbish the mural with fresh paint. The artist would use pigments that are more resistant to fading than previously used. (This was the only area where should could estimate a cost; about \$8,000.)
4. Re-varnish the mural. The wall would need to be sprayed with anti-graffiti varnish which could be done by another contractor.

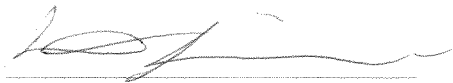
My last contact with her was regarding scheduling the project. She is quite busy and needs a fairly long lead time to schedule projects. As of March she was booked through the summer with a possibility of having time available in September or October. If this is a project the City Council would like staff to work on it would be good to get on Mona Caron's schedule now to ensure the project can be completed this year.

Fiscal Impact:

The amount of time to clean, remove the varnish, and re-varnish the mural is unknown. Therefore, staff is requesting a budget up to \$20,000 (\$8,000 for the artist, up to \$12,000 for the other aspects) in order to move forward. The money would come from the Public Art Fund. After the Library project there will be about \$166,000 available in this fund.

Measure of Success

The mural on the side of Mid-Town Market is refurbished and has continued life span of twenty years.



Stuart Schillinger
Administrative Services Director



Clay Holstine
City Manager