

COMMITTEE ON LANDS & BUILDINGS

April 18, 2023 at 6:00 PM

Chairman Long called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Long, Fajardo, Levasseur, T. Sapienza, Trisciani

Messrs.: J. Dittbenner, D. Hady, T. Clougherty

1. Proposal from Jyl Dittbenner and David Hady for murals on the bridge pillars in Arms Park.

Jyl Dittbenner stated I actually wrote the grant for this project and am spearheading it. We wanted to help beautify the millyard with more art. We are coming today to share our designs with you.

David Hady stated these are going under the Bridge Street pillars and the concept we talked about was Manchester Millyard's past, present and future. These three designs incorporate those elements. In Jyl's depictions we have representations of the present on the bio fabrication that is happening and a lot of the technological elements are that going to bolster the city forward. On the right we have a depiction of Joe Nelson who was a director and kind of spearheaded the rebuilding of the millyards back in the 70's and 80's. It was Jyl's idea to kind of incorporate the existing color palette of James Chase's artwork.

Chairman Long asked are these going on the east side or west side of the abutments.

Ms. Dittbenner answered we are doing the two abutments that are closest to the river but not in the river. Mine could be face-to-face or side-by-side and then Dave's would be on the opposite side. There is another artist who has a grant and I don't know if you have talked to him. I did meet with him to make sure that our plan doesn't conflict. He is going to do one of the pillars that is closer to the middle of that parking lot and he is going to do a millyard past theme.

Chairman Long asked so the abutments closer to the water will have these three on them.

Ms. Dittbenner replied yes.

Alderman Trisciani asked can Director Clougherty come forward. I want to see where we are at with DPS power washing to make sure that what you put up is actually going to stay up.

Ms. Dittbenner stated we are unsure of the waterproofing and how it will work with the paint.

Alderman Trisciani stated I know there is also a coating that can go over it after that is graffiti-proof or more graffiti resistant.

Tim Clougherty, Public Works Director, stated I am sorry but I didn't hear the question.

Alderman Trisciani stated one of the questions regarding this is some prep work and finalizing with DPW what has to be done for power washing. Is there any help you can provide to get the project moving forward?

Mr. Clougherty responded I heard about this earlier. As far as pressure washing, we can work with you to do that. I had the same question about waterproofing. I don't that is necessarily something we would want to do if you are going to try to apply paint to it afterwards. The waterproofing chemicals like silane or siloxane we put on bridge abutments to prevent salt from intruding into the concrete. That would lead me to believe that painting it afterwards would be rather difficult. We can work with the applicant to prepare the surface with pressure washing or something like that. We don't have a problem with that.

Alderman Trisciani stated also Jyl and Dave if you talk to James Chase I know he did priming before but I don't know what he used. I believe afterward, and I don't know if it was the staircase or tunnel, but the city helped out with an anti-graffiti coating.

Mr. Clougherty replied we weren't part of the application of those coatings but I am familiar with them.

Alderman Fajardo stated I think you were because I remember that in the tunnel on the Piscataquog Rail Trail where they did the murals...

Mr. Clougherty interjected by South Main Street.

Alderman Fajardo stated yes and I feel like I remember seeing language in the Manchester Moves agreement about some kind of treatment after the fact to just make it more durable. I have heard that it is helpful in case of graffiti as well.

Mr. Clougherty stated like I said we are familiar with it and we can work with the applicant.

Alderman Fajardo stated those were my questions to. There was a series of open questions in your proposal and I was curious about the extent to which you had addressed them but it sounds like the intent is to get those questions answered.

Ms. Dittbenner stated I had discussions through email about these questions. We are just trying to finalize when that could happen.

Mr. Clougherty stated we can work together to get it done sooner rather than later.

Alderman Levasseur asked can you tell us what each one depicts or what they are supposed to mean. Usually there is a story behind each painting.

Ms. Dittbenner stated my two people walking through the millyard are people today. I have a student who has a stethoscope around his neck to signify the medical student

and I have some small symbols of NH like the sticker here that says "Live Free or Die" and the sign to represent Ralph Baer and the Old Man of the Mountain in the corner. I have some circuitry because we are trying to project into the future. The millyard is becoming a very big center of bio fabrication. He has a robotic hand that represents one of the big things happening in the millyard. The woman is more of a businesswoman walking through the millyard. She has the building blocks of the millyard. I also reflect the hexagons. This is a health tag and a DNA spiral.

Mr. Hady stated this is an abstract depiction of Joe Nelson who moved here from New York in the late 1960's. He was hired by the city to direct the rebuilding of the millyard which had started to fall apart. He and his team rebuilt the millyard into what it is today. Joe, who isn't a very tall person, and his friends and family named him Joe the Giant which kind of lended itself to me depicting a giant version of him under the bridge. Fun fact, Joe lived to the age of 102. He still has family here in Manchester. This is a nod to someone who had a huge influence on Manchester as it is today who might have been overlooked.

Alderman Trisciani stated I have one more question for both of you. I have seen both of your work around town and I know it holds up and I know it lasts. Do you have anything in there for planning for maintenance for a few years out just in case anything happens to it? I am pretty sure on the tunnel and on the stairway there is a maintenance agreement. I don't remember the duration. It might be two or three years to make sure that it stays and lasts.

Ms. Dittbenner responded I put in the proposal that...June you know me and I am always walking around Manchester and keep an eye on all of the art that I have created and other artists too. For my particular projects, if I find graffiti I just fix it. I feel like the art shows the city and I don't want it representing something that we are not. I put that it will be five years. We would put a clear coat at least on the lower part.

Mr. Hady asked are you talking about the integrity of the paint flaking or are you talking about the integrity of the structure and the cement cracking.

Alderman Trisciani replied it is going to be if the paint were flaking. If there is something with the cement that happens, that is obviously not within your purview. I know your work and I see it all the time and I know you maintain it. I just wanted to confirm and ask that as part of the process.

Mr. Hady stated I would second what Jyl said. We talked about a realistic approach to clear coating which may be like the bottom 20'.

Alderman Trisciani moved to approve the murals. Alderman Fajardo duly seconded the motion. Chairman Long called for a vote. The motion carried with Alderman Levasseur being duly recorded in opposition.

TABLED ITEMS

2. Communication from Timothy Otis, Principal, Manchester School of Technology, requesting approval to sell a minimum of two of the eight building lots donated by the city to the Vocational Partnership of Region 15 (VOPAR) in 1992.
(Note: Tabled on 3/21 to have City staff look into possible funding so they don't have to sell the lots.)

This item remained on the table.

*There being no further business, on motion of **Alderman T. Sapienza**, duly seconded by **Alderman Fajardo**, it was voted to adjourn.*

A True Record. Attest.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew Normand". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Clerk of Committee