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Village of Lewiston sending metal art frames to HPC, Planning boards

BY JOSHUA MALONI
GM/Managing Editor

There is still no consensus on metal art frames following Monday's Village of Lewiston board meeting. Trustees declined to vote on this third part of the "Lewiston Public Art Project" following a nearly 90-minute public comment period.

The board did reaffirm its prior approval of the proposal's first two components – a mural at the Academy Park comfort station, and a series of "Lewiston"-emblazoned benches – while agreeing to send the metal art frames to the Historic Preservation and Planning commissions for further review.

Members of those boards expressed frustration over not being previously consulted. They cautioned the metal art frames meet the village code's definition of a sign – meaning they must meet certain safety standards.

One bit of common ground was reached among trustees and residents (both for and against the art displays), and that is the metal frames – should they be approved – will not be placed on Center Street.

In fact, this previous sticking point was addressed prior to the

Proposed location for Lewiston Living Art Gallery - Brick Walk in Academy Park



Rendering courtesy of the "Lewiston Public Art Project"

meeting, when the Lewiston Council on the Arts submitted an updated proposal calling for the frames to line the north Academy Park entryways.

Frames

Under the section titled, "Lewiston Living Art Gallery," the proposal calls for "a series of ten large scale, two-sided outdoor frames located along the brick path in Academy Park."

Five frames would be situated between the "Circle of Honor" and the to-be-relocated "Spirit of Vic-

tory," while another five would be positioned between that art work and the Upward Niagara Chamber of Commerce office/Lewiston Welcome Center.

The proposal states the location is "inside of the fence, on Village Property, and is not subject to (New York State Department of Transportation) approval.

"√ The proposed location would not interfere with long-standing activities in Academy Park, such as the Peach Festival."

In addition, "The artwork will be illuminated after sunset with solar-powered lighting (inside the frame).

"√ This open-air gallery will feature a changing display of art works curated by theme, by artist or by other commonalities that will change four times a year. (High-resolution prints of the artworks, not the originals, would be used.)

"√ Each exhibit will have a guest curator who is qualified to evaluate what should be displayed."

The frames would be designed by metal art fabricator Dan Buttery, who recently created and installed the "Lewiston Landing" sculpture on North Water Street.

In the proposal, LCA states, "The frames themselves are artistic creations and their design will be the first of its kind:

"√ The frames will be able to rotate to display works that are oriented either vertically or horizontally

Continued on Page 3

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