

## **Item 25-0225: Approve request from Creative Downtown Appleton, Inc. to install a selfie sculpture on City-owned property located within Houdini Plaza (Consolidated Action Item)**

**Common Council**

Wed, Mar 19, 2025 7:00PM

**Mayor Jake Woodford** 41:15

That concludes business presented by the mayor. So, we'll move along now to public participation, and I think we caught up with a couple of folks who had signed up to speak on the truancy discussion. Just, again, a note on that, that's not an action item that appears on the agenda, so not subject to public participation this evening, but in the event that Council takes up the matter for action in the future, that will be subject to future public comment.

**Mayor Jake Woodford** 41:47

Next, I see that we have a member of the public who signed up to speak regarding special assessment on Durkee Street, and we do have a public hearing related to that item. That's 1-p-25 so there's a special public hearing coming up for that item after public participation. So, Kathy, Joe, if you—if you just hang tight, we'll get to a public hearing here in a moment, and that'll be an opportunity for you to speak about your concern on Durkee street.

**Mayor Jake Woodford** 42:16

So, with that, we'll move along. The next person signed up to speak—and we'll ask that folks keep their comments to five minutes or less and that we only speak on items that appear on the agenda. And so next is Jennifer Stephany from Appleton Downtown Incorporated. Welcome Jennifer.

**Jennifer Stephany (Appleton Downtown Incorporated)** 42:38

Good evening. Thanks so much for the opportunity to speak. I'm Jennifer Stephany. I'm the executive director of Appleton Downtown Incorporated and Creative Downtown Appleton Inc, and here to speak on the locator pin photo op proposal that we submitted six weeks ago. Yesterday we received our quote on materials, specifically on the aluminum sheets that it will take to fabricate this piece, and much to our surprise, it is actually priced us out of fabricating the piece as it has been presented. Additionally, the groundswell of negative feedback following an alderperson's post on social media has given us pause. So tonight, I'm asking to have this item referred back, so we have an opportunity to retool our design and take this up at a later date. Thank you.

**Mayor Jake Woodford** 43:31

Thank you.

[Cut]

**Mayor Jake Woodford** 52:04

So, with that, we'll establish the order of the day. All right, let's start with Alder van Zeeland.

**Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5)** 52:15

Thank you, Chair. Under Parks and Recreation, I would like to refer back item 25-0225, the request from Creative Downtown Appleton to install a selfie sculpture.

**Mayor Jake Woodford 52:26**

Okay. And if there are no objections, what we'll do is we'll allow that to serve as the refer back, and then we will not take up the consolidated action item at this time, unless there's any objections with that, I think this, this will accomplish what we need to accomplish, and if an item needs to be taken up for future action or addressed, and it is also a consolidated action item, we'll get items placed on the appropriate committees of jurisdiction. But for now, if there are no objections, we'll refer this back to Parks and Recreation Committee and let that committee take it up.

**[Mayor Woodford speaks off microphone to a city staff member.]**

**Mayor Jake Woodford 53:12**

It's just, we're just going to refer to, we're just going to, we're just going to refer it back to one committee. Let them ride. Alder Wolff.

**Aldersperson Nate Wolff (District 12) 53:19**

Thank you, Chair. There was a request from the Arts Committee to have this brought back to them as well. So, if we aren't sending it to three separate committees, I think I would object to just sending it to one, because the Arts Committee did want to speak on this again.

**Mayor Jake Woodford 53:39**

All right, so we have an objection to the chair's ruling. Is there a second to the objection? All right, we have an objection and a second to the mayor's ruling. So, with that, we can move right to a vote on this unless folks would like to discuss it. Alder Meltzer.

**Aldersperson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 53:59**

Thank you. I would like to see it referred back to more than just the park and rec committee. I was—I had—I was—the chair of the Public Arts Committee spoke to me, and there was perhaps concern from an additional member of the Public Arts Committee as well that more discussion ought to be had on this item. So given the input that I received from that committee which meets very rarely and perhaps would like more time to engage in their duties as a committee, I feel that this would be a very appropriate time to refer it back to the Public Arts Committee given the nature of the discussion.

**Mayor Jake Woodford 54:49**

Any further discussion? Alder Schultz.

**Aldersperson Alex Schultz (District 9) 54:53**

Yeah, just to echo that, I also heard from the chair of the Arts Commission, and I think that the concern there was based on the timing and the sensitive timing nature of the request, there wasn't enough time to digest it. So that's really why they want to have it back in front of them. So, I think it makes total sense to get it back in front of the Arts Commission.

**Mayor Jake Woodford 55:12**

Alder Meltzer.

**Aldersperson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 55:13**

And I have a question. Does that mean that we would still be voting on the city plan item 25-0203, or would that one be held until the next council meeting?

**Mayor Jake Woodford** 55:24

I would say at this point the objection's been made to the chairs ruling, which would then, to me, suggest that all of the committees would take this up again.

**Aldersperson Vered Meltzer (District 2)** 55:34

Thank you.

**Mayor Jake Woodford** 55:36

Any further discussion? Alder Smith.

**Aldersperson Martyn Smith (District 4)** 55:41

Thank you. Your Honor. I also agree this should go back to the Arts Committee because there were some comments made about the Parks and Rec wasn't the proper place to talk about the aesthetic quality. And so much of the public feedback has related to the esthetic quality and whether we want this in Houdini. So, I think that the Public Arts Committee is the appropriate place to get another look on what has been the public's main concern as reflected in social media posts. Thank you.

**Mayor Jake Woodford** 56:09

Any further discussion? All right, all in favor of upholding the objection? Please signify by saying, aye. Any opposed? All right, the ayes have it, and the objection has been upheld. This will be referred back to all of the committees.