

City Council – Action Request Form

Date: August 10, 2021

To: Mayor, Mayor Pro Tempore, and Members of the City Council

From: Ben Rowe, Assistant City Manager

Council Action Requested:

Resolution Approving the Installation of a Statue of William “Bill” Hayes in the Bowman Gray Stadium Field House by Winston-Salem State University (East Ward)

Strategic Focus Area: Economic Vitality and Diversity

Strategic Objective: Promote Travel and Tourism

Strategic Plan Action Item: No

Key Work Item: No



Summary of Information:

Winston-Salem State University (WSSU) Athletics leadership recently contacted City staff expressing interest in installing a statue of Coach William “Bill” Hayes in the Bowman Gray Stadium Field House. In November 2007, the Mayor and City Council adopted a resolution establishing an application process for public art donations. WSSU Athletics staff submitted an application for consideration by the Public Art Commission.

According to the University’s application, the statue would be permanent, but movable, and located on the first floor of the Field House in the lobby of the main entrance. The piece would be a larger-than-life size statue on a 4’x4’ pedestal and made of bronze and granite. The estimated cost would range from \$90,000 to \$100,000. The Athletics Department would raise the funds from former WSSU football players and alumni, which would cover design, fabrication, shipping, and installation of the statue. In their application, Athletics leadership stated that:

Bill Hayes is a legendary icon in the city of Winston-Salem, state of North Carolina, as well as the United States. People will have the opportunity to learn

Committee Action:

Committee	CDHGG 8/10/2021	Action	Approval
For	Unanimous	Against	

Remarks:

of his legacy and the impact he made at WSSU and the surrounding community.

The Public Art Commission recommended approval of the statue at their meeting on July 6, 2021. Members asked about the ownership and future maintenance of the statue. The University would retain ownership and be responsible for maintenance of the statue. According to the Stadium and Field House lease agreement, WSSU can install “machinery, equipment, and *other tangible property*” (emphasis added) at its sole discretion and expense in the Field House. The City only would take title to the property if its removal would damage the Field House.

The attached resolution approves the installation of a statue of William “Bill” Hayes on the first floor of the Bowman Gray Stadium Field House. WSSU Athletics officials anticipate the project would be completed by July 2022.