

PORTLAND PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE
Wednesday, January 16, 2008
Meeting Minutes

Present: Alice Spencer, Steve Halpert, Dave Wade, Jack Soley, Peggy Golden, Sally Struever,
Excused: Dave Marshall, Staff: Carrie Marsh

The minutes of December 19, 2007 were accepted.

Alice proposed a change to add a line under the Stone Dragon discussion that the Committee would seek sites for the piece separate from the larger search for sites in the City.

Alice asked how the committee could best provide input on the Creative Economy. Carrie noted that the next Creative Economy Steering Committee meeting will be 1/31 at 7:30am.

Sally noted that if the next conversation is about what entity will be created to implement the Creative Economy report, then the Public Art Committee should be in the room for the discussion, to express its needs.

Alice suggested that the Committee review the Creative Economy report. Peggy suggested that the Public Art Committee write a letter to David Marshall as Co-chair of the Public Art Committee.

Winslow Park

Vivian Beer has proposed an alternative budget for stone bases for each piece. She had originally provided a quote based on concrete and brick bases.

The Committee voted to do the stone veneer and base if the funding is available in the budget. The Committee asked Vivian to consider using surplus granite.

The Committee would like to check on the potential to have Public Works involved in the installation.

Stone Dragon

Jack and Alice met with Anne Pringle about potentially siting the Stone Dragon in Deering Oaks. One option would be to site the sculpture in the ravine. Anne said it might be possible for Friends of Deering Oaks to find funding to expand it. The second potential location would be at the playground. Alice and Jack felt that the ravine would be a better site if Deering Oaks is chosen. Alice wondered if the City should commission other creatures. Alice and Jack will also look at the East End School. Sally suggested Back Cove as a possible location.

Fishermen's Monument

The Public Art Committee would like to come up with a list of Maine artists who could do a representational work that would be appropriate for the project. Alice will call Donna McNeil to discuss potential artists.

Alice wondered if the piece could be designed to be interactive – for example, if it is a boat, could children get into the boat? Or perhaps the wheel could turn. Or the fish could spill out of the boat and onto the pavement and become part of the paving around the piece.

P.D. Merrill

Alice reported that the group is interested in a major piece. The project is on a fast track. The fundraising will be private. Donna McNeil of the Maine Arts Commission is assisting with the artist selection. Artists will be invited to participate.

Peppermint Park

Carrie will meet with Jill Dalton. They are interested in doing a community art works project. They are talking with Spiral Arts about doing a mural.