

PORTLAND PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE MINUTES

March 18, 2009

Attendance: Jack Soley – Chair, Alice Spencer, Peggy Golden, Stephen Halpert, and Sally Struever.

Guests: Ethan Boxer-Macomber, Laura Newman

Review and Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the February 18, 2009 meeting were reviewed with minor corrections. Alice made a motion to approve, Sally 2nd the motion, all voted in favor.

New Business

Request from Ethan Boxer-Macomber

Ethan provided a brief update on the funding status of the Community Development Block Grant for the Dragon Sculpture relocation. They are at the second stage of consideration and have been recommended for full funding at \$78,996. Ethan and Laura have decided to work together to apply to the Maine Arts Commission for additional funds for the project. They have asked the PPAC to support the grant application. PPAC agreed to provide a letter of support for the project. They will coordinate with Jack them to compose and approve the letter before submission. They were encouraged to apply for the maximum award of \$20,000. Alice and Cathy volunteered to review the application if they wished. A model of the Dragon Sculpture was lent to Ethan.

Project Updates

Mapping for Site Selection

Rick, Jack and Alice met. Site selections will be plotted on map. Layers will be designated and marked on map for the peninsula and added to the mapping system of the City. The peninsula will be first so that challenges can be identified and resolved before taking on the remainder of the city. Specific sites will be identified within Councilors' districts as opposed to neighborhoods. Eventually, mapping will include placing all works in PPAC collection on the map. Map will be reviewed at next meeting.

Bayside Trail

Alice and Sally will work to connect with Hadley to obtain details of the plan. This is not a pressing issue even though there are ongoing meeting about the trails and the MLK memorial.

Boothby Square

Jack will email Jeff Tarling about weeds and how best to proceed.

Little Water Girl

Scott Hanson is meeting with Corporation Council next week. The process is slow and hopefully Scott will also be able to speak with the folks in Chicago before the next meeting. Jonathan Taggart would be paid by Chicago for his efforts once the project has a green light and fees would come to PPAC. Additional questions were posed such as what happened to their sculpture, if stolen then we would want proof (including photographic) that they actually owned one and whether or not there are any limitations from the artist's estate prohibiting the recasting of the sculpture. Cathy will email Scott.

Stanley Pullen Memorial Fountain

Peggy reported that images have been sent to Tony. She will check in next week regarding a timeline with the intention of completion by winter. This means design and quotes will likely be needed by May/June. Fountain will not be repaired until a permanent solution is identified.

PD Merrill Sculpture

Jack reported that he has been informed that there are some delays which means it is not likely to be completed this year.

“Jewell Box” Bus Shelter

Dave is on the Metro Board and will oversee that the frame, approved by the artist, is affixed as previously noted. Metro will fabricate the frame.

Peppermint Park

Sally reported the park has been designed and that she'll know more soon. They will apply for a community art program award. Sally will suggest the meet with PPAC after the application has been submitted.

Other Business

Community Arts Guidelines

Sally, Cathy and Alex met and it seemed as though the updated version was approved by the City Council but it was not the correct version. Cathy will work to organize a follow up meeting to review.

Signage

Sally sent out a draft of the bid request but requested some additional feedback. Bid request will be sent out by next meeting with the hope that some bids will have been submitted for PPAC's consideration.

Public Art Committee Staffing

Cathy reported that she has received a fully executed copy of the contract from the City.

New Committee Members

Alex will need to take care of the ad ideally sometime next week. Jack will email John Coyne who is part of the Selection Committee regarding potential new candidates in order to move the process along. It was noted Rick will be leaving and it was requested that he asked for a recommendation for his replacement. Also, there is a desire to have another architect. A few members will connect with community members to gauge their interest in joining the PPAC while noted there is a process that needs to be followed. It looks like we'll need to fill three upcoming vacancies.

New Commission

Alice, Peggy and Jack to met and put together a timeline for a new commission to be installed for the summer of 2010, locations to be identified in April. There was discussion about the possibility of working with the Portland Musuem of Art regarding a Bernard Langlais totem sculpture they own. There is a possibility PMA would gift the work to PPAC in exchange for the restoration and installation costs. Alice and Jack will make additional enquiries on this front.

Winslow Park Event

Cathy confirmed PACA would provide a modest fee to Vivian Beer if she was interested in presenting a lecture organized in partnership between PPAC and PACA. This would need to be coordinated with Vivian's visit for the event celebrating the installation of her work at Winslow Park. Sally will connect with Vivian regarding a possible dates. Also, a few locations for the lecture were identified with the State of Maine Room at City Hall at the top of the list.

Fishermen's Memorial

The relocation of the memorial is on hold given all the changes with the ME State Pier development. Jack will encourage they consider Bell Buoy Park at Ocean Gateway which has already been approved by the City for this use.

Maintenance Plan

Jonathan Taggert prepared a maintenance plan for the collection which needs to be reviewed. Also will need to consider whether or not we are on schedule as identified for routine maintenance items although it was noted this is actually the responsibility of Parks.

Meeting Start Time

A plea was made to the committee for prompt arrival. There is a great deal to cover each meeting and it is especially challenging when there are guests. Mark your calendars for the third Wednesday of each month from 4-6pm.

Jack adjourned the meeting at 5:45pm.

Notes prepared by Cathy Valenza.