

PORTLAND PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE MINUTES

April 15, 2009

Attendance: Jack Soley – Chair, Alice Spencer, Peggy Golden, Stephen Halpert, Dave Wade, Rick Renner, Terry DeWane and Pandora LaCasse

Guests: Sandy Macleod, Ted Musgrave

Review and Approval of Minutes

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

New Business

Request from Sandy Macleod

Sandy requested that PPAC consider extending the use of the Chestnut Street median for the siting of a temporary loan of his work. It was pointed out that PPAC manages permanent long term public works. Although the site is available (and may have power) it may be considered as a site for a new commission. None-the-less, there was discussion and consideration of whether or not the work was appropriate for the site. It was determined the proposed piece was not well suited for the location. Suggestions of other locations were considered. PPAC would like to see Sandy's work placed somewhere but there was agreement that this was not the right location. Sandy was encouraged to consider and propose other options for next meeting including a piece that would work better on the site.

MLK Memorial on the Bayside Trail

Rachael Talbot Ross is hoping to attend the May meeting to discuss the memorial at Bay Side Trails. They should get gift guidelines asap. They may have a number of sites on the trails so there may be more than one proposal to PPAC. Alice may have more info after attending the next Bayside Trails meeting. They may already have specific ideas of what they want so important to coordinate early in the process including meeting with PPAC so the process can be presented and defined. Alice will extend invitation to the next meeting.

Project Updates

Mapping for Site Selection

Rick, Jack and Alice met to pool the info they would like the City to include in the database. Ben to put info on GSI. Identified gateways and will want to generate an output so others can add information to it can be as complete as possible. Decided sheets would be circulated as pdf.

Bayside Trail

Lots of energy and interest in public art possibly around themes for this project. Their plan should be in writing soon and hopefully, members of their committee will attend next PPAC meeting. Reminder that a guideline is that the name of the sponsor can not be incorporated on/in the art work.

Little Watering Girl

Jack spoke with Scott Hanson. The folks in Chicago are waiting to hear from Portland. Scott will reengage now that time has been freed up some.

Stanley Pullen Memorial Fountain

Tony has provided drawings for consideration. There is a possibility to create a park-like setting with brick and granite curbing which would be wheelchair accessible. Trees and shrubs along with benches would also be included. Tony would like to attend next meeting. Both plans were reviewed by PPAC and plan B is the one preferred. Discussion as to whether or not funds might be available from the City possibly in-kind. Costs undetermined and project may be done in phases. Questions about lighting and underground utilities came up. Want to invite Tom at Public Services to next meeting.

PD Merrill Sculpture

Jack reported that it is in fundraising mode and there may be a possibility of a large gift which could really get the project moved along.

“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 but status is not clear at the moment. A question came up about the concrete slab base and whether or not it is finished as per the artist’s intention. Jack will email the artist to determine.

Peppermint Park

Sally was unable to attend the meeting so there is nothing new to report.

Other Business

Community Arts Guidelines

Cathy reported that she and Sally met to review the guidelines and she hoped to have a draft with tracked changes to Sally and Alex soon.

Signage

Sally was unable to attend but had sent some material that had yet to be reviewed.

Dragon Sculpture Update

Alice had a meeting with Ethan and Carol regarding landscaping plans and about keeping PPAC informed of ongoing plans. PPAC’s letter of support was sent to Maine Arts

Commission and Ethan should hear soon (by next meeting?) as to whether or not the application for a grant yields a funding award.

Boothby Square

Jack reported that Jeff Tarling feels the grass will be greener and more robust than ever but concerns remain and it is clear the issue has to be resolved this year. The current variety of grass is temperamental and we need a variety that is very robust. The thought is that the broad leaf weeds should be killed off with treatment Jeff is applying. May need to think about another type of grass if this doesn't work. Terry and Alice will make some enquiries about alternatives.

New Committee Members

Alice's term limit has come up. Ad is out and PPAC needs to fill four seats. Discussed that we should have a handbook for new members and a session about PPAC. Also, Dave and Alice will work on the design for a brochure that could also be posted online with the City providing printing of the hard copies.

New Commission

There has been a delay in seeing the Bernard Langlais totem sculpture but the feeling is that it is still an option to coordinate with the PMA. Also, Andy Verzosa is the curator of the Langlais Estate; it may be possible that Five Bears may be available and that Helen Langlais might consider working with PPAC.

Maintenance Plan

Jack will survey the works in the collection with Jonathan Taggert in a couple of weeks.

Jack adjourned the meeting at 6pm.

Notes prepared by Cathy Valenza.