

PORTLAND PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE MINUTES

May 20, 2009

Attendance: Jack Soley – Chair, Alice Spencer, Peggy Golden, Stephen Halpert, Dave Wade, Rick Renner, Alex Jaegerman, Hadley Schmoyer, David Marshall, Sally Struever

Guests: Tony Muench, Terry DeWan and Pandora LaCasse

Review and Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the April 15, 2009 meeting were reviewed with minor corrections. Steve made a motion to approve, Alice 2nd the motion, all voted in favor.

New Business

Stanley Pullen Memorial Fountain

Tony reviewed the plans for the refurbishment of the fountain which at this point does not include water unless privately funded. The design creates a lovely park-like oasis. Total cost of the project was easily estimated at \$20,000. All proposed land is City owned but would need at about ten trees. It was suggested to connect with Jeff Tarling who has a tree fund and may be able to assist. Whether or not the City has a gift program was discussed but it might be better to have a targeted appeal for this project. Need to get a sense of costs from Tony and Public Services. This is a historic area so would need approval from Historic Preservation. Alex will run plan and specs on bollards by Public Services and Historic Preservation. It was noted the manhole is mechanical access for the fountain. Suggestion of more bollards to make it skateboard inaccessible and may be able to do something with the cobblestone and cuts to achieve same.

Maine Arts Commission Request for Images

MAC requested images of works in the collection. There isn't much but Jay will condense what he does have to a CD. PPAC may need to have Russell send his images to Jay. Dave W. has some of the bricks project and of *Tracing the Fore* and will give those to PPAC. Alice will then compile an inventory of the images.

MLK Memorial on the Bayside Trail

Rachael Talbot Ross is interested and a task force has been established. Alice will keep in touch and will share images of other memorials assembled by Terry with them to assist in generating ideas. Alex suggested the MLK designs be part of the phase II contract of the Portland Public Trails project allowing for fundraising for the memorials. This needs to be an integrated project and design project. There may need to be a public process to vet other potential memorials. PPAC would still like to have Rachael and others attend next meeting.

Committee Reports

Jewell Box Bus Shelter

Artist has signed off on location of the bus schedule but electrical box is too low to be read easily. Eight buses run by the shelter and it would be a good idea to have the complete map accessible to the riders. It may be necessary to have a separate post or kiosk but its location would have to be in close proximity to the shelter. No resolution yet about this or the heater issue. Dave M and Jack will visit the site to evaluate the possibilities. Artist would like to have the trash can moved.

Mapping for Site Selection

Rick hasn't had any feedback about the maps problem is they are too small. They need to be larger in order to work with them. Alex will get them printed for next meeting. Plan to arrive 15 minutes early next time to provide feedback.

Little Watering Girl

Recent discussion yielded some intellectual property concerns regarding the recasting of the sculpture. The Chicago folks have a conservator, as do we, and it will likely be a simpler process if her comes here to work in concert with our conservator. Costs are being identified and legal questions are being worked on by Ann Freeman. It is agreed that only one casting will be allowed, the cast will be broken and the replica will be identified as such. Chicago will need to cover all of our costs. The library will also have some costs given their renovation and Steve will likely want to meet with PPAC to discuss assistance. Discussion ensued based upon Pandora's suggestion that the process be documented and used as an educational opportunity for student at MECA/SALT. Documentation costs should be part of the overall project budget and Scott will need to be consulted about his fee for the recasting. Press release needs to be prepared and publicity controlled asap. Hadley suggested PPAC create a policy for the replication of works in the collection.

PD Merrill Sculpture

Jack reported that fundraising is the current priority for this project and there is no new news.

Peppermint Park

Sally reported the group met yesterday and are beginning to discuss the options for the park. This could be a Spiral Arts project and may be appropriate for consideration under PPAC's Community Art Guidelines. It is likely they will submit an application to PPAC by the next meeting.

Other Business

New Commission

It has been determined the Portland Museum of Art's Langlais sculpture is not the best way to go. Andy Verzosa, the curator of the Langlais Estate, has identified a piece that may be more appropriate. Possible sites include the USM Law School triangle.

Community Arts Guidelines

Cathy expects to have the draft with tracked changes to Sally and Alex soon.

Signage

Sally has followed up with the three vendors she had sent RFP to along with others. Pricing varies by vendor and by requested sizes. Based upon feedback from vendors it may be necessary to wait until Fall to have the signs cast and installed. Sally and Peggy will visit the sites to confirm the appropriate size for each work possibly in coordination with Jack and Jonathan. The bronze signs are back mounted with an epoxy. Jonathan should review the specs. Costs have been budgeted. Sally will coordinate the remainder of the project.

Dragon Sculpture Update

No word yet on the application submitted to the Maine Arts Commission. Alice will connect with Ethan about the grant and timeline for the relocation of the sculpture.

Sandy Macleod Update

A location was found for Sandy's piece but he would still like to come back and discuss other possibilities. PPAC needs to evaluate its prevue for temporary public art installations. PPAC's charge can be amended as necessary. Alice suggested expanding the current model for temporary student public art works. PPAC should connect with Ted Musgrave on this item. Discussion continued and suggestions included identifying potential temporary art locations, establishing guidelines and potentially formalizing a temporary art committee (which may be more than what is needed). Dave M. and Alice will explore further.

Boothby Square

Jack reported that a hover mower will be used to manage the grass. Concerns remain and in theory, it is likely the right grass but it can take a few years for grass to establish itself. Terry will check on grasses and possible treatments to allow for a better presentation. Peggy will manage with Jeff.

Winslow Park Event

An event could still be organized and MECA and Vivian would need to be contacted. Practically speaking, there isn't enough energy to organize at this time and idea was tabled indefinitely.

Fishermen's Memorial

This project seems to have lost some of its momentum but Jack will check up on it.

Maintenance Plan

Jack and Jonathan surveyed the works in the collection. Previously, Jonathan prepared a maintenance plan and training to two employees but Public Services has not followed through. PPAC will need to pay Jonathan to do this despite Public Services obligation to do so.

New Committee Members

Term limits may not be retrospective so Alice's term may not be up. Dave M. is working to verify. Steve and Rick are leaving so replacements will need to be found along with two additional new members to expand the committee.

Congress Square Study

Hadley, and Alice as backup, will serve as PPAC's representative.

Art Honors Award

Jack congratulated Alice on the receipt of this important award in recognition in part for her work supporting and fostering public art in Portland.

Jack adjourned the meeting at 6pm.

Notes prepared by Cathy Valenza.