

PORTLAND PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE MINUTES

June 17, 2009

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

Review and Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the May 20, 2009 meeting were reviewed and no changes were indicated. Dave W. made a motion to approve, Terry 2nd the motion, all voted in favor.

Welcome

Jack welcomed the committee's new members Pandora and Terry.

New Business

Guest Stephen J. Podgajny, Executive Director, Portland Public Library was unable to meet with the committee to discuss the Little Watering Girl sculpture and will hopefully join us next month.

Temporary Art

Alice spoke with Ted Musgrave who is happy to continue the student art program but doesn't have time to take on a temporary art program. PPAC members would have to take on such a program possibly as a sub committee with minimal support from Ted and the department. Pandora will consider taking on this worthwhile effort and Sally is interested as a support person but not as the primary point person. Related to this discussion Alice suggested we ask for a designated temporary art site with Bayside Trails. The timing seems right to be considering temporary art and possible sites as we move forward. Sally will get guidelines from a temporary art project she knows of to share with the committee.

Committee Reports

Jewell Box Bus Shelter

Dave M. reported the shelter has been cleaned and the trash can was moved further west. At the Metro meeting there was discussion of using a steel light pole for the map and schedule. Cement footing is the original bus shelter footing and the artist chose to keep this feature "as is." Jack will email artist with an update.

Mapping for Site Selection

Committee spent some time reviewing the layers and adding to what Rick had already prepared. Ben is to load the layers to create a pdf or disc so additions and changes can be made. Rick will connect with Ben to facilitate this.

Bayside Trail

Hadley and Alice visited and walked the trail. A number of groups are involved in this project and a clarifying meeting was held yesterday to identify the lines of communication and coordination. The project is moving along and groundbreaking has already occurred. It is a busy time for the group and there is good leadership.

Little Watering Girl

The sculpture has been moved to Ledgewood's site and there is concern it is not being stored as we would want. Alex has suggested it be moved to the Ocean Terminal which would also provide a work area for the casting. A reminder that Commercial Street has a tendency to flood so we'd want to be careful exactly where it was relocated to. Also, it will need to be inspected for current condition prior to next move to expunge PPAC from liability if damage has occurred. Jonathan should be involved in these types of moves from the beginning (as well as in the renovation and re-siting).

PD Merrill Sculpture

Jack reported that there is no new news about the project at this time.

Peppermint Park

Sally reported the project is moving along but more internal work needs to happen before the group is ready to meet with PPAC. Application should be submitted to Jack, Alex, Sally and Cathy and can be dropped off to Alex or emailed to Jack. The location of Peppermint Park is between Congress, Cumberland and Smith. At this point there is a possibility of mosaic work incorporated in a seating area and a water feature being included in the park – or a more traditional artwork might be featured.

Stanley Pullen Memorial Fountain

Tony will move forward and the project is status quo.

Other Business

New Commission

A group went to Cushing to view four large works by Langlais and a 15' high wooden horse sculpture was identified as a strong candidate. Andy Verzosa will provide a condition report and assess whether or not it can be moved. He will also consider a temporary loan of a work which could be displayed in the rotunda at City Hall. The horse sculpture has been offered as a possibility as long as Helen Langlais is open to working with us (and it seems so) and the proposal is that she would donate it to PPAC. Jonathan will also assess condition and suggest a maintenance plan. Final decision will be made based upon his assessment. Durability of structural integrity would also need to be assessed and considered.

Signage

There was discussion about quality, cost and time pertaining to the vendors Sally had sent RFP's. Also there was some discussion about the bid process. She will connect with the Franklin folks to see if they will send a small sample so we can assess the quality and to

confirm they can do the design as specified. Sally will work with Peggy and/or Jonathan to design the three remaining signs.

Dragon Sculpture Update

They didn't receive the grant they had applied for from the Maine Arts Commission but this isn't holding them up and they plan to move the sculpture at the end of the summer. Jonathan should be involved with the move. Alex will start an email trail between Jonathan and Ethan. Alice will connect with Ethan.

Sandy Macleod Update

Sandy received a grant from the Maine Arts Commission.

Boothby Square

Peggy took photos prior to the Old Port Fest and will take a series of photos on a monthly basis. Jeff has contracted with a company to treat the grass. The grass looks far better than it did after the Festival and since the rain. Perhaps next year a stage with bleachers could be placed over it for protection. Jack and Peggy will check it out.

Winslow Park Event

Dave M. will work on this and PACA will commit to funding a lecture by Vivian.

Fishermen's Memorial

There are no further updates on this project at the current time.

Maintenance Plan

Jonathan will not be able to devote any time to this until July but has preliminarily identified three pieces which should be treated this year at an approximate cost of \$3,800.

New Committee Members

Two seats have been filled but PPAC wants to expand to eleven so two more members are needed. Sally's term may be up and she may not re-up.

Community Arts Guidelines

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

Image Archive

Assembly of the photo archive needs follow up.

New Idea

Identify public park projects which have been approved for funding and try to coordinate efforts. Early identification of such projects would allow sufficient time to collaborate.

Jack adjourned the meeting at 6pm.

Notes prepared by Cathy Valenza.