

PORTLAND PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE MINUTES

July 22, 2009

Attendance: Jack Soley – Chair, Alice Spencer, Peggy Golden, Dave Wade, Alex Jaegerman, Pandora LaCasse

Guests: Austin Smith (Portland Public Library), Ethan Boxer-Macomber (East End School/ Dragon Relocation)

Review and Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the June 17, 2009 meeting were reviewed and a minor change was indicated. Dave W. made a motion to approve, Pandora 2nd the motion, all voted in favor.

New Business

Guest Austin Smith, Portland Public Library, met with the committee to discuss the Little Watering Girl sculpture status and the costs associated with the reinstallation. Feedback was provided to Austin regarding unobtrusive barrier for the sculpture and its base. The request of \$4,215 is the cost for Jonathan Taggart and Ledgewood. Sign for PPAC collection needs to be incorporated as part of the installation as per Jonathan's direction. Also, history of sculpture will be included as part of the project.

Guest Ethan Boxer-Macomber met with the committee to provide an update on the Dragon Sculpture relocation including showing some before and after images. The placement allows for movement around at least one side of the dragon pieces along the path. It will take an additional \$11-12,000 to create and install the three additional pieces or segments of the dragon and they will apply again to the Maine Arts Commission for grant funds. Carol (artist) will be on hand for the actual relocation of the sculpture as it currently exists and she will be integral to the placement of the segments. Jonathan Taggart will also be involved in the process with a late August move date. This will provide a good photo opportunity and related publicity. It was also acknowledged that this is a good education opportunity for the children perhaps presented as a story board for the school.

Relocation Guidelines: Should discuss and determine a policy.

Endorsement from Dark Sky: Confirm we have this for the Boom project.

Expo Mural: Add to the agenda.

Committee Reports

Jewell Box Bus Shelter

It is the current understanding that the steel light pole will be used for the map and schedule. We'll remove as an agenda item until the map and schedule is installed.

Mapping for Site Selection

Jan Pirebek is working with her class on a project that mirrors PPAC's mapping project. Rick will keep us updated on the status of the project and will continue to be the lead.

Bayside Trail

Alice has reported that there is a high level of thinking about public art pertaining to this project along with a great deal of energy, enthusiasm and experience. There is still a great deal of discussion about the project and its components but the trail is actually going in.

Little Watering Girl

See notes about guest Austin Smith.

PD Merrill Sculpture

Jack reported that fundraising is really coming along and there is signage at the site. Project is now slated for commencement until the spring of 2010.

Peppermint Park

No update available but it is expected an application will be forthcoming.

Stanley Pullen Memorial Fountain

Plans are in hand but now needs to go through a staff review, the creation of an RFP and the project going out to bid. Once the RFP's are in hand then fundraising can get going. We will need to get a letter for Tony acknowledging his in-kind support of the project.

Other Business

New Commission

As it turns out, the Langlais horse sculpture is not a possibility and an alternative is being considered (a sculpture of sitting bears). A similar work has been at Ogunquit for 30 years so it would pass PPAC's longevity goal of 20 years. It was appraised for \$150,000 in 1997 and is in good condition. However, there was not enough interest on the part of the committee to pursue this possible acquisition.

Signage

Peggy will be taking the lead on this item.

Dragon Sculpture Update

See notes about guest Ethan Boxer-Macomber.

Boothby Square

Peggy continues to photograph the piece. Treatment was recently done but clover is taking over. We'll stick with the current treatment plan for the remainder of the season.

Winslow Park Event

No update available. Remove from agenda until there is new information.

Fishermen's Memorial

Jack reported this project is coming together and there is a new site, yet to be announced. There is a new streamlined designed and a media campaign will be mounted around the project.

Maintenance Plan

Jonathan has not been as available as in the past but it is anticipated that there will be new energy around this as his time opens up.

Image Archive

Alice reports pulling together the images has been a slow process. Dave Wade will provide his images to Alice and she will continue to procure same from Jay York.

Jack adjourned the meeting at 6pm.

Notes prepared by Cathy Valenza.