



Lin Lisberger, Co-Chair
Julia Kirby, Vice-Chair
James Cradock
Jenna Crowder
Terry DeWan
Jere DeWaters
Alison Hildreth
Pandora LaCasse
Jessica Lipton
Councilor Dave Marshall
Tony Muench

Management & Administration

Alexander Jaegerman,
Planning Division Director

Caitlin Cameron
Urban Designer, Planning Division

PORTLAND PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE

Wednesday, October 16, 2013

4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Room 3, Portland Public Library

Attendance:

Lin Lisberger, James Cradock, Jenna Crowder, Jere DeWaters, Alison Hildreth, Julia Kirby, Jessica Lipton, Tony Muench (Staff: Caitlin Cameron)

Also in attendance: A member of the press (Carol McCracken from the Munjoy Hill News)

Not in attendance: Terry DeWan, Pandora LaCasse, Councilor Marshall

Call to Order: 4:00pm

Approve Minutes with from September 18, 2013

PROJECT REPORTS

- LANGLAIS – Lisberger

Ms. Lisberger reported that there will be a meeting with members of the PPAC and representatives from Casco Bay Lines to explore possible sites for the bear sculptures. The Press Herald article came out on the previous Sunday along with a news report. Lisberger asked Cameron whether there has been any feedback or ideas from the public for siting the bears as a result of the press. Cameron answered that she did not know and would check the email account. There will need to be a Council Order to accept the pieces and add them to the City's collection; this is likely to happen in November.

- Web Site Update – Cradock

Mr. Cradock reminded the committee that work was done by PERCH to add a webpage for additional art not in the City's collection. Lisberger asked whether PERCH has been paid. Cradock responded that he believed so. Lisberger asked whether DeWaters had a chance to update the photos. DeWaters answered he has not. Cradock suggested he could supply the aspect ratio if that would be helpful in revising the photos. Lisberger added that the new content (photographs and copywriting) would need to be created to add to the site. Cradock added that he needs to look at the statistics and see how people are finding the site and those kinds of details.

- Launch Party – Kirby

Kirby reported that the launch party was small but successful. The food truck sold out and there was good

entertainment. Lisberger added that Patrick Roach from Mensk is happy to partner PPAC events with other Mensk events in the future. Kirby suggested committee members keep an eye out for opportunities to promote the committee and the collection such as 2 Degrees and Green Drinks. Lipton offered to talk to the Jewish Film Festival about promotion. Lisberger suggested the new website presentation could be made into slides for this purpose. Hildreth suggested Pecha Kucha would be another good venue. Lisberger agreed saying these venues would be good during the middle of winter. Lipton volunteered to do this. Kirby asked if MECA has any venue for these kinds of announcements. Crowder responded they have a monthly open house or it could be part of a visiting artist lecture. Hildreth mentioned the digital screen in the Portland Museum of Art next to the elevators as another option. Lipton suggested also reaching out to the hotels.

- **Bayside Mural – Cameron**

Cameron asked whether this group has interest in getting involved in a new community mural project in Bayside. Lisberger clarified only if the project is a community site and a community art project in which case they would have to apply. Lisberger then asked how the committee wants to address preserving the Andrew Schultz mural. The group agreed it would probably need to be deaccessioned after the sale of the City building is completed and the new owner is identified. Crowder asked whether the committee at least has a good photographic record of it. DeWaters answered that he did. Lisberger added that perhaps the new building owners will want to keep the mural.

- **Free Street Mural – Lisberger**

Lisberger reported that the RFP has not been released despite the plan to release it on October 1st. The RFP has not gone to the Civic Center board and is not a top priority for them in light of other events. They have selected a MECA design as the temporary solution. The MECA class will paint panels and then install in spring which will last for a year or so until the permanent art can be identified.

- **Congress Square – Hildreth**

Cameron described status of the RFP process and the coordination that will happen between the Congress Square design team and the PPAC. Hildreth asked what groups the design team will have to coordinate with. Cameron answered they will have to coordinate with the PPAC, the Event Center design team, public engagement through the Congress Square Redesign Study Group, Historic Preservation Board, City Council, and the State and High group. Lisberger remarked how popular water features were during the visioning process. Hildreth announced the Site Selection group will meet again and have more to report at next month's meeting.

Subcommittee Reports

- **BUDGET DISCUSSION**

- Lisberger updated the committee on the estimated budget but question whether the number was correct as it did not seem to reflect the Bayside Trail benches being cancelled. She remarked the numbers would need to be checked. The budget will subtract \$5,000 for the Cloud Couch relocation, \$30,000 for the Langlais installations, and \$5,000 for conservation. This leaves possibly \$175,000 in the budget for acquisition. Lisberger asked whether that was enough to acquire a piece for Congress Square. Hildreth felt that for Congress Square the committee would need to fundraise. Lisberger added that the budget/annual report should reflect the need to fundraise. Hildreth commented that the website can be a potential tool to help with this.

- **GOVERNANCE/BOARD DEVELOPMENT SUBCOMMITTEE – Lisberger**

Lisberger commented that there is currently a full committee. She was uncertain who's term ends next or when that will be. Lisberger welcomed Crowder and expressed she was glad to have Crowder join the committee. Lisberger asked Crowder if there were any subcommittees she might

want to join. She suggested they discuss that topic outside of the meeting.

- **COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT – Lisberger**

- Kirby is pursuing the idea of having celebrities perform Art in Our Front Yard. She asked committee members to think of people to suggest and especially people that are personal connections. Lisberger reminded the group that one idea was to host Art in Our Front Yard during the lunch hour rather than First Friday. Kirby added that historic groups in the city would be appropriate partners for promoting this event. Hildreth mentioned that art critic Sebastian Smee went to the Boston Public Art collection and made videos and that the committee should consider doing something similar with the celebrities. Lisberger added that the idea was to video tape any celebrities who volunteer to help with this and edit the footage for web content. Lipton asked whether the committee could allot money from the budget to compensate volunteers. Lisberger asked for someone from the committee to take on dealing with this idea in a concrete way. Lipton volunteered to build a skeleton.

Kirby asked whether she was on the Communications Committee (Lisberger: Yes)

Lisberger suggested that this project should start in Monument Square. Kirby asked whether we have money to pay celebrities for it? (Lisberger: No).

Meunch leaves at 5:06pm

Lisberger remarked that the Communications Committee should have a regular monthly meeting.

- **SITES SUBCOMMITTEE – Hildreth & Cradock**

- Relocation of Cloud Couch – Lisberger reminded that the committee was considering two locations – Harborview Park and Payson Park. The Site Subcommittee decided, however, to go with the third option of relocating within Back Cove. Even though Harborview Park was the front runner the Back Cove spot will have more visibility and use. Lisberger moved to move the Cloud Couch from the current location to this new site off Baxter Boulevard at the 2 mile marker. Lipton seconds. Vote unanimous in favor (7-0).

Other Business

- Maine Arts Conference coming at the end of October if someone would like to go. The City will pay \$90 for one person to go. There are sessions on funding public art and creating a sense of place. There were no volunteers from the group to attend. Hildreth asked whether the transcript would be available. Lisberger said she would ask about that.

Meeting adjourned 5:30pm

Next meeting is Wednesday, November 20, 2013