

PORTLAND PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE MINUTES

May 16, 2012

Attendance: Jere Dewaters, Alison Hildreth, Jessica Lipton, Lin Lisberger, Pat Murtagh, Alice Spencer
(staff: Alex Jaegerman, Jennifer Hutchins)

Guests: Carol McCracken, Craig Lyons (Portland Daily Sun)

Welcome and Minutes Review

April minutes reviewed and approved, with changes, unanimously.

Ms. Spencer welcomes Jessica Lipton as a substitute for Virginia Sassman as PACA rep.

COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Lisberger said that Pandora LaCasse met with Councilor Coyne, who appreciated the visit and was happy to learn more about the program.

Mr. Dewaters plans to meet with Councilor Dusen soon. Ms. Lisberger will follow up with Mr. Muench and Mr. Dewan to remind them to contact Councilors Suslovic and Mavodones.

Ms. Spencer said that it would be helpful to write to the councilors a note just prior to the vote on June 4 regarding the seating project.

Ms. Spencer will send out notice to the original seating project panel to attend the June 4 meeting.

Ms. Spencer reported on their meeting with Nicole Clegg, the city's communications director, who suggested the "Art in Our Frontyard" series—a public lecture at each of the public art collection pieces during the Art Walks. The plan is for a member of the committee to be prepared to do a short talk. It is important to include an overview of the public art program, hand-outs and allow for Q&A. Ms. Spencer would like to get a map to hand out as soon as possible. She asked if the Committee is in favor of this plan.

Tony is signed up for Sept 7 and the Pullen Fountain. Ms. Hildreth signed up for Lincoln Park Fountain on October 5. Jere Boothby Square Nov 2

Jewel Box – June 1 – Lin

Michael – July 6 (ten. Pandora)

Art Under Foot/Longfellow – August 3 (ten. Terry)

Pullen Fountain – Sept 7 – Tony

Lincoln Park – Oct 5 – Wooly

Boothby Square – Nov 2 – Jere

Maine Lobsterman – Dec 7 – Pat

Fireman – April 5

Our Lady of Victories – May 3

Ms. Lisberger will ask Ms. LaCasse. Ms. Spencer will ask Terry, Tony and Peggy. Alex and Alice will see what materials are available and bring them to the next meeting.

ART COLLECTION MAP

Ms. Hildreth agreed to find a map to hand out during the Art in Our Frontyard series.

GOVERNANCE/BOARD DEVELOPMENT

Ms. Jaegerman explained the contents of the Committee binders, and had copies available for all of the Committee members. Discussion followed about adding other helpful documentation.

Ms. Murtagh reminded the Committee about Ms. Spencer departure from the Committee in June, and opened the discussion of Committee leadership. She said there is a suggestion that each Committee takes a turn as a Chair and Vice-Chair for a one-year term.

Ms. Murtagh talked about the various roles that are needed for the Committee. Ms. Spencer suggested that the role of the chair should probably be written down to help others as they come on, and offered to draft a "job description." Ms. Murtagh said that someone is needed to replace Ms. Spencer as co-chair.

General discussion on how the Chair/Vice-Chair position might get filled.

Mr. Jaegerman explained that the appointees would be considered full members of the board and be expected to serve in leadership positions. Ms. Lisberger asked if the Chair position needs a visionary element.

Ms. Murtagh said the Committee will need to vote next month on the position of chair for the committee. She is willing to stay on as Vice Chair through December 2012 and will contact some people who are interested in serving on various subcommittees.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Ms. Hildreth will email everyone a list of visiting artist lectures for the MECA MFA program. The first lecture is on June 21st with Michael Kimmelman. It was suggested to ask Herb Adams to talk about some of the history the Committee doesn't know all about.

Another suggestion was to send around articles about public art for people to read rather than have lectures. "Brooklyn Rail" has lots of articles.

WEBSITE

Mr. Jaegerman sent out a request toward this to the budget office.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Lisberger reported that **Langlais' "Rhinceros"** is possibly looking for a new home because of the constant vandalism at USM in Gorham. She spoke with the USM Art Gallery about possible placement in Portland. They have asked the Committee to let her know where the City might place it.

Mr. DeWaters said that he thought that the Langlais pieces that were distributed by his estate belong to the State because they were given in lieu of estate taxes and USM may not have the right to give it to anyone.

Ms. Lisberger said she would find out this info from USM and also find out if there is restoration money with the piece and whether the money would cover the full cost of restoration. Committee thought maybe the sculpture could go in the children's room of the library or the USM Portland campus.

There was a discussion of how the committee wants to deal with **Congress Square** issues. Ms. Hildreth suggested coming up with an overall image of possible development for the Council to get a whole vision.

Ms. Lisberger read the rough draft of a possible letter we might send to the Council supporting using good design and maintaining the public space. There was discussion about whether this is a letter we should use as a guideline for us or whether this should be sent to reinforce how we can help the Council manage the project and make good design decisions. Approach would be as a partner on the whole project.

Ms. Spencer said she would check with Gary Wood to find out the appropriateness of our possible actions. Generally the question was "How do we go forward with this?"

Adjourned.

Minutes by Jennifer Hutchins and Lin Lisberger.