



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

Management & Administration

Alexander Jaegerman,
Planning Division Director

Caitlin Cameron
Urban Designer, Planning Division

PORTLAND PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

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

Attendance:

Lin Lisberger, Jenna Crowder, James Cradock, Jere DeWaters, Julia Kirby (Staff: Caitlin Cameron, Alex Jaegerman) and a member of the press, David Carkhuff, Portland Daily Sun

Not in attendance: Terry DeWan, Alison Hildreth, Pandora LaCasse, Tony Muench, Councilor Marshall

Call to Order 4:02pm

*Approve Minutes from April 16, 2014 DeWaters moves, Kirby seconds, unanimous (5-0) approval (DeWan, Hildreth, LaCasse, Muench, and Marshall absent).

Langlais:

Lisberger reported that Portland and Deering High School installations should occur in the next couple of weeks. The stands are almost complete in construction and shall be painted to match surrounding wall trim color. Wright Ryan has finished bases for the Acrobatic Dogs and the bears. Lisberger is waiting to hear when the bases can be installed but they are ready. The Kohler Foundation arrived at the estate a couple weeks ago and moving people were on-site on Friday. If any PPAC members wish to be at the install, let Lisberger know. Lisberger requested assistance for the bear install. DeWaters will be present to take photographs.

The Colby Foundation asked whether Portland wants to be included in the Langlais Trail which includes a \$50, inclusion on the online map, and a copy of the Langlais monograph. There is no money in the PPAC budget that is eligible for this kind of expense. The PPAC has until June 1st to decide whether to participate. Lisberger moved to decline the offer to participate in the Langlais Trail, Cradock seconded, unanimous vote (5-0) approval (DeWan, Hildreth, LaCasse, Muench, and Marshall absent).

Lisberger reported that \$200 has been pledged to the honorarium for the Langlais speaker. Lisberger also wrote to the mayor asking for funding. Kirby inquired how the PPAC will pay for marketing materials for the speaker event. Cameron replied that posters may be paid for from the Planning Division printing budget in the next fiscal year. DeWaters asked whether the PPAC could sell a poster as a fundraiser – there was general consensus that this was a good idea.

Lisberger asked whether there were further contacts for fundraising. She will ask Gorham and Bangor Savings Banks and Key Bank.

Lisberger inquired whether the Ordinance could be changed to allow for funds to be spend on items that are not directly related to the public art.

Congress Square:

Cameron provided the update that the Congress Square Art Selection Panel had its first meeting on May 15 and discussed goals and visions for public art in Congress Square. Lisberger was also in attendance and reported that members of the group were confident that the PPAC could receive federal funding for this acquisition. Councilor Marshall at that meeting also mentioned the political implications of the City spending a lot of public funds on art and the panel was asked to be mindful of the political landscape as well as the community needs. The panel will meet again in June after the referendum. Cameron will add PPAC members to the Dropbox so they may contribute to the archive of examples.

[4:26pm Jaegerman arrives]

Cloud Couch Relocation:

Lisberger and Jaegerman attended a meeting with DPS staff to discuss relocation. DPS will do the work but were unsure which account to bill the work towards. Lisberger will keep the PPAC members updated on the schedule of the relocation.

Jetport Gifts:

Lisberger reported that Paul Bradbury is talking to Maine Department of Transportation about moving traffic signs blocking the view of the Jay Sawyer piece at the Jetport. There will be a reception for Jay's piece at the Jetport August 1 (First Friday).

Lisberger opened a discussion about the proposed gifts of art to the Jetport by Bill Hamill. The gift would include three outdoor pieces, Link and two deer for Glimpse, as well as three indoor pieces. Clarification is still needed about the placement of all pieces being proposed. Kirby asked whether the PPAC could accept the gift with the condition that it is the final gift from the Hamill collection to the Jetport. Lisberger moves that the Portland Public Art Committee accepts this donation as Bill Hamill's culminating gift to the Jetport. Kirby seconds, vote is unanimous (5-0) approval (DeWan, Hildreth, LaCasse, Muench, and Marshall absent).

Portland Brick:

Cameron updated the group that the artists for the Portland Brick project would likely be applying to the committee for Community Art funding in the near future to carry out the project on India Street.

Community Ground Gazebo:

Craddock revisited the discussion about the gazebo safety and status. The gazebo is on City property in Payson Park and sees some use. The structure is sturdy and not unsafe but there are holes in the roof. Alan Holt expressed interest to Lisberger in saving the tiles which were the community art aspect of the piece. Lisberger will ask Troy Moon and Mike Bobinsky if DPS could wash the tiles and repair the roof. Craddock will ask Portland Trails if a trail or path could be incorporated leading to the structure.

Announcement of two lectures in June. Benepe lecture on Open Space Thursday, June 5th. The PPAC is a co-sponsor for this event with a table from 5-6pm. Lisberger asked for volunteers to sit at the table and prepare materials such as a card for the table. Kirby offered to bring an e-mail sign-up sheet and a flyer for the Langlais lecture. Lisberger will assign members to sit at the table. Cameron announced the second lecture which will be on Monday, June 9th by transportation expert Ben Hamilton-Baillie on the subject of shared-use intersections which might be part of the redesign strategy at Congress Square. That lecture will be at the Public Library.

Governance Subcommittee:

Lisberger reported that Creative Portland has not voted on the new member to be represented on the PPAC, yet.

Lisberger also mentioned that her term will expire in June and appropriate plans need to be made. She inquired what other PPAC member terms will expire this year. Cameron offered to check.

Communications Subcommittee:

Lisberger reported that the PPAC did not receive a NextGen grant.

Lisberger also applied to the Maine Arts Commission for money under the St. Lawrence.

The PPAC is not eligible for a NEST grant.

Other Business:

Cameron forwarded an inquiry from a member of the public about a bronze sculpture of a woman that was in Congress Square Plaza 30 years ago. PPAC members brainstormed ideas about what that might be in reference to. The two sculptures that were mentioned were the Little Water Girl which used to stand on High Street and a MECA student art project from 30 years ago that was cement figure of winged fury.

Lisberger announced that the Civic Center plans to address the Free Street wall when the City responds about their sign permit. They propose to keep the wall a revolving temporary art piece with MECA classes producing the art. The PPAC would prefer a more permanent solution, especially one that addresses the fence above the wall in addition to the wall itself.

Art in Our Front Yard should be started again for the season. The PPAC proposes to start with celebrity speakers. Lisberger asked when the presentations should be held. It was decided to use noon on First Friday once a month. Jaegerman asked whether a PA system would be beneficial – he will ask Ted Musgrave if there is one. Cameron proposed that the committee use the Mayor's speech on July 4th as one of the presentations – he delivers the Gettysburg Address. It was agreed that would be appropriate in front of the Our Lady of Victories sculpture. The Communications Subcommittee will meet and make decisions regarding these options and report back to the committee.

Crowder made the committee aware of a potential new proposal from an artist that makes crochet basketball nets. The proposal would be permanent pieces around the city but uncertain whether these would be public or private property. Crowder will direct the artist to submit the idea to the Sites Subcommittee for review.

Adjourn at 5:31pm

Respectfully Submitted:

Caitlin Cameron