



Lin Lisberger, Co-Chair
Julia Kirby, Vice-Chair
James Cradock
Jenna Crowder
Christopher Devlin
Penny Harris
Alison Hildreth
Pandora LaCasse
Councilor Dave Marshall
Tony Muench
Corey Templeton

Management & Administration
Alexander Jaegerman,
Planning Division Director

Caitlin Cameron
Urban Designer, Planning Division

PORTLAND PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

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

Attendance:

Lin Lisberger, Chair, Julia Kirby, James Cradock, Jenna Crowder, Christopher Devlin, Penny Harris, Alison Hildreth, Corey Templeton (Staff: Caitlin Cameron, Alex Jaegerman)

Not in attendance: Pandora LaCasse, Councilor Marshall, Tony Muench

Call to Order 4:01pm

*Approve Minutes from January 21, 2015 Kirby moves, Templeton seconds, unanimous (6-0) approval (James Cradock, Pandora LaCasse, Councilor Marshall absent).

Project Reports

Portland Brick:

Cameron updated the group that the Portland Brick project is still waiting for the contract with the artists to be completed. PPAC agreed to defer to Crowder's review of the final content of the bricks before installation.

Devlin arrives 4:06pm

Langlais:

A group of committee members attempted to reinforce the base of the birdhouse heads at Deering High School but the base was glued to the floor and could not be moved.

Crowder showed draft layouts of the Jetport posters for review. Lisberger asked how many boards should be created and whether they should include all the Jetport artwork. It was also asked whether the Jetport can contribute to the cost. Crowder was to get in touch with the printer to understand the costs. Lisberger also commented that the posters should include photo credits.

Harris arrives at 4:18pm

The photos from Casco and Deering High Schools are backlit and need to be retaken.

The bronze plaques were ordered but Lisberger was not sure of the status. Lisberger needs to schedule with Jonathan Taggart to install those.

Lincoln Park Fountain:

Friends of Lincoln Park are proposing improvements to Lincoln Park including the fountain which is a part of the Portland Public Art collection. PPAC will need to decide what priority the fountain restoration has in the budget and how much money the committee is willing to contribute to the project. Hildreth felt the committee should consider putting money towards the restoration. Devlin asked where on the committee's timeline the maintenance of this fountain falls. Jaegerman reminded the committee that the fountain did receive some conservation attention in 2005. Are there other more pressing conservation issues in the collection? Lisberger added that maintaining the fountain is the PPAC's responsibility on some level but not sure how much money should be spent. The Pullen Fountain was \$30,000 for restoration and landscape work. Kirby suggested talking to the Friends group to understand the status of their work. Jaegerman suggested the position of the committee at this time is they are supportive of the project and there is an indication of intent to fund the work at some time. The committee would entertain a request to contribute future funds towards this project. PPAC should be included and involved as this proposal moves forward with the fountain. Hildreth offered to email the friends group.

Based on this discussion, Jaegerman suggested having Jonathan Taggart update the inventory of the collection and establish the priorities for the collection. Lisberger will ask Taggart for an assessment and work this year. The question was raised whether the previous assessment is current enough or whether a new one needs to be done. Cradock added there was another maintenance priority that was not addressed with the Libbytown mural water damage.

Governance Subcommittee:

Annual Plan: The Plan and Budget will be presented to the City Council on February 23. Committee members are encourage to attend to show support.

Communications Subcommittee:

Art in Our Front Yard: The subcommittee will meet 2/18/15. There is a possible partnership with USM class. The subcommittee will develop a schedule. Lisberger also went to the Maine Arts Commission session on writing grants.

Website: Cradock researched the website traffic which is about 20 people per day. Cradock asked Templeton's permission to crop images to fit the aspect ratio of the website. New images are ready for review and to be put on the website.

Sites Selection Subcommittee:

The Congress Square Art Selection Panel: There is an NEA grant opportunity deadline is July. The application will need to include a short list of artists. The grant money would be available in July 2016. Lisberger also suggests pursuing other grants such as the OurTown grant in October to fund the design work. PPAC wants to meet with the City Manager and Creative Portland to talk about the future funding of the project and potential time line. The panel still has an immediate focus of fundraising and a lecture series about art in public places.

New proposal: Crowder reported that the Sites Selection Subcommittee reviewed the new proposal that came in and had many questions including the longevity of the project. It was suggested this project could possibly coordinate with Portland Brick or other collaborators such as: MHS, Greater Portland Landmarks. This work might best fall into the category of temporary art or a handheld app.

Puffin: Lisberger continues to work with Casco Bay Lines to find a site for this donated piece.

Other Business:

Temporary Art:

The results of the Bloomberg Art Challenge application still had not been announced.

Sean Foley, the TEMPO curator, will send suggestions to the PPAC for Temporary Art Guideline changes.

Painting Restoration Proposal: Project MEAC approached the PPAC suggesting that City-owned paintings currently being restored be added to the Portland Public Art collection. MEAC also invited PPAC members to visit their office. Lisberger offered to organize the visit. Generally, there was not a lot interest in adding the paintings and no action will be taken at this time.

Hildreth leaves at 5:40pm

Common Ground Gazebo: The City staff are proposing tearing down or moving the gazebo.

Crowder leaves at 5:50pm

PPAC members are to think about other possible locations. Lisberger proposed the best location would be somewhere off-peninsula, near a trail or sledding hill. Cradock suggested one of the neighborhood greens. Lisberger also suggested the gazebo could become the memorial for the fire victims in Longfellow Park.

Adjourn at 5:56pm

Respectfully Submitted:

Caitlin Cameron