



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
Caitlin Cameron
Urban Designer, Planning Division

Portland Public Art Committee

Wednesday, August 18, 2015

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

Attendance;

Lin Lisberger, Chair, James Cradock, Jenna Crowder, Christopher Devlin, Penny Harris, Tony Muench, Corey Templeton (Staff: Caitlin Cameron). Not in attendance: Alison Hildreth, Julia Kirby, Pandora LaCasse, Councilor Marshall.

Call to Order 4:01pm

Presentation by Rich Bianculli from the Police Department with a proposal for electrical boxes to be painted by artists to deter graffiti. The proposal includes a competition and PPAC would be asked to help develop criteria and judge the entrants. Learning Works and the Department of Public Services will provide the list of locations based on electrical boxes most often targeted with graffiti. The artists would provide their own supplies. Devlin asked who Bianculli was affiliated with – Police Department. Lisberger asked how many electrical boxes would be included in the scope – At least five but there is currently a list of fourteen.

[4:05pm Templeton arrives]

Lisberger asked whether there is any funding to pay the artists – no funding at this time but open to suggestions of sources. Lisberger asked whether the Boulos grant money given to Learning Works for this task could be used. Bianculli is not sure if Learning Works is willing to contribute money towards this. Muench asked whether these are all City fixtures – yes. Cradock asked how long the artwork would last – every season there would be a new clear coat applied. Bianculli added that there is a desire for the art to relate to the community/neighborhood where it is located. Devlin asked how long the artwork is expected to remain before being replaced – Boston and Providence have not had to replace theirs yet, since 2000. Lisberger suggested the PPAC review model RFP language and asked who would sponsor this project. The sponsors would be the Police Department and Learning Works. Lisberger asked for PPAC volunteers to pursue involvement with this project – Cradock and Devlin volunteered.

Approve Minutes from July 15, 2015. Harris moves, Muench seconds, unanimous (7-0) approval (Hildreth, Kirby, LaCasse, Councilor Marshall absent).

Project Reports

Langlais: Lisberger collected the Langlais abstract pieces from the Peaks Island branch – they will be stored in the City Hall vault until the renovation projects are done at the Peaks Island location.

Signage: Bronze plaques are completed and ready for install. The contract with Jonathan Taggart needs to be completed before installation can happen.

Collection Assessment: Cameron confirmed that Jonathan Taggart is on hold until the contract is finished.

Art Underfoot: Lisberger call for a decision on how to address the four missing bricks in the Art Underfoot installation. The options presented include filling in the missing bricks with regular brick or have the artist recreate the bricks and reinstall. Muench asked what the cost would be to replace them and how can future damage or loss be prevented. Devlin commented that the artist would be able to recreate the bricks in a way that would be an authentic restoration. Cradock commented he would rather see the restored art bricks installed.

The PPAC votes have the artist recreate four missing bricks from the Art Underfoot artwork in Longfellow Square, and to pull molds from the existing bricks for conservation purposes [7-0 Lisberger moves, Devlin seconds]

Discussion: Cradock asked whether we know if the bricks were stolen or knocked out of place accidentally. Muench suggested that temperature changes could have also affected the stability of the installation and suggested stainless still pins for future installations. Lisberger asked whether Council needs to approve this action – Cameron will check guidelines but believes this would be considered a minor repair.

Budget: Cameron presented the current account balances and planned expenses. Lisberger commented that based on the budget, PPAC could acquire more artwork. Muench suggested the Sites Subcommittee should keep a list of potential sites. Lisberger asked the Sites Subcommittee to come up with a list of three top sites for next public art locations. Cradock suggested upcoming public works sites be considered since they may change or create more public spaces. Devlin asked whether more money should be put towards Congress Square. Lisberger replied with the concern about perception of too much public funds being spent on a single piece of art and so far the committee has agreed to keep the budget at \$225,000.

Portland Brick: Crowder announced that the artists had presented additional content for review. Cameron asked whether they are still on schedule for delivery in October. Lisberger asked whether they could include the PPAC logo in the bricks rather than using a plaque. Cameron will check in with the Department of Public Services about the installation.

Subcommittee Reports

Governance/Board Development: Next month's meeting will be at LFK after the Longfellow Square Art in Our Front Yard talk.

Communications Subcommittee Report:

Art in Our Front Yard: Monica Wood will present the Longfellow statue at 3pm on September 16th. Lisberger met with CTN and they recommended some banks to apply to for funding. There is a \$500 membership fee needed to cover the video production. Another tactic is to get discretionary funds from the City. Lisberger asked Jeff Levine whether some of the CIP money could be converted to operating budget in order to pay for the video services. Additional grants include Osher and Cricket Foundations. The Jetport event will take place in October on the same day in the same room with video cut-ins of the artwork. Scheduling with Vivian Beer is still pending. It was suggested that Michael should also be added. Slugger agreed to participate and Edwige would be the interpreter.

Website: No updates

Site Selection Subcommittee:

The Congress Square Art Selection: No discussion.

Puffin: Lisberger reported that *Puffin* siting at Casco Bay Lines terminal is still awaiting approval from the Casco Bay Lines board in September. The next step will be to work with Scott Simons on the installation.

[5:23pm Crowder leaves]

Sandy McCleod: The committee reaffirmed its desire to have the two temporary works removed in Harborview Park. There is a need to start a conversation with the artist about acquisition of the pieces. The public art committee cannot accept work that will not last 25 years. Lisberger agreed to approach the artist.

Other Business

Grants Update: The Maine Arts Commission and Cohen Foundation did not grant the PPAC applications.

Temporary Art: Andy Rosen's UNPACK has been very popular with many people stopping to look at the work. Harris asked whether we could find a permanent location for the work that would continue to be publicly accessible. There are pending Temporary Art applications that we are waiting to hear about from Ted Musgrave.

Quimby Foundation Event: Harris reported on an event put on by the Quimby Foundation with Andy Goodman.
<http://www.thegoodmancenter.com/>

Room 24: Mayor Brennan suggested putting something on the walls of Room 24. How should PPAC approach this? Suggestions include the collection of paintings that the City owns and is having restored, using photographs of temporary art projects around the city.

First Friday: Temporary Chalkboard walls in Congress Square were very successful with high level of participation.

Adjourn at 6:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:
Caitlin Cameron