



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, September 16, 2015
4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. LFK Restaurant

Attendance;

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

Call to Order 4:04pm

Approve Minutes from August 19, 2015. Muench moves, LaCasse seconds, unanimous (8-0) approval (Hildreth, Kirby, LaCasse, Councilor Marshall absent).

Project Reports

Collection Assessment: Cameron confirmed that contract with Jonathan Taggart was signed. Lisberger met with Taggart to discuss the timeline for this work which should be on track to be completed in the Fall 2015.

Art Underfoot: Lisberger picked up the molds made from the existing bricks and put in City Hall storage. Casts still need to be produced.

Portland Brick: Crowder announced that the artists delivered some of the bricks and they are installed in the sidewalks; one brick was chipped and will be replaced. Kirby inquired whether there should be a press release on this. Cameron suggested waiting until all bricks are installed.

[4:05pm Templeton and Devlin arrive]

Still waiting for remainder of bricks to be delivered. Lisberger reminded the group that the location for the sign still needs to be determined.

Subcommittee Reports

Governance/Board Development: The City Council approved two items on September 9th, 2015 – the deaccession of the Bayside Community Mural and the relocation of the Common Ground Gazebo. Lisberger spoke with DPS staff and Learning Works about the power washing and overpainting of the mural wall. The wall will remain a temporary art site until the City sells the building. Regarding the gazebo, Cradock spoke with the Presumpscot School about creating new tiles. DPS will assist with the move and new foundations. Some of this work may need to be contracted out. For repairs, LaCasse suggested approaching Open Bench, PATHS, or Learning Works for help. The City staff would like to wait until Spring for this move.

Lisberger wanted the committee to know that Councilor Suslovic thanked the public art committee for their work.

Communications Subcommittee Report:

Art in Our Front Yard: Monica Wood presented the Longfellow statue at 3pm on September 16th and many committee members were able to attend with a couple of members of the public in attendance as well. Lisberger is proposing to pay CTN \$500 membership fees this year and \$500 next year for the video series. LaCasse asked how many videos had been made so far. Lisberger replied there were four done and one more scheduled. The remaining Art in Our Front Yard will be for the Jetport on October 19 at CTN. Hildreth asked whether the small indoor sculptures would be included in the talk – no. Kirby suggested that the committee ask CTN to get footage of the indoor art while they are there filming the other pieces. Lisberger would like to ask John Raimondi to come speak about Michael at a future time but the financial situation for funding the filming needs to be resolved first. Hildreth made the committee aware that the Friends of Lincoln Park would be hosting a talk at the Lincoln Park fountain on October 2nd. Hildreth agreed to find out what time and the committee would ask CTN to film that presentation as well.

Website: Cradock loaded the Our Lady of Victories file but the Vimeo account needs to be upgraded to accommodate the files. This would be \$59.99/year for the first year. Cameron will look into providing this. Lisberger asked whether loading audio files instead is an option – Cradock answered yes. Cradock will send the account information to Cameron and City will pay for account if possible. Kirby asked whether the committee had discussed the web hosting situation for the public art website. Cradock agreed this should be discussed because there are no backup services with the current host. Kirby asked to put this on the next agenda.

Site Selection Subcommittee:

The Congress Square Art Selection: Staff met with PPAC and Friends of Congress Square Park to develop the work plan and timeline for the overall project and grant proposal. There was a joint meeting with the City Manager who gave permission to proceed with the RFQ and grant application as well as releasing funds allocated by the previous City Manager.

Sandy McCleod: Lisberger spoke with the artist regarding the structural soundness of the work and for pricing information for the committee to acquire one or two of the artworks currently installed as temporary pieces. The artist responded with the following offers: Polarity \$20,000, Dancing Rounds \$15,000, and Unbalances \$5,000. If the committee purchased the first two pieces together, the price would be \$30,000. Hildreth asked whether the committee would spend that much money for the artwork if it wasn't already there. The answer was generally "no." Muench pointed out that there would be further expenses to move the work. LaCasse added that the two smaller works could not hold their own without the larger work. If one of the smaller pieces was kept, it would need to be relocated to a more suitable location. Hildreth added that she like the Dancing Rounds piece best but agreed with Lisberger that the location was not good and the work was not visible. Hildreth asked what the expectation was when the work was installed. They were intended to be temporary pieces and the City has continued to keep renewing their placement. LaCasse added that they were originally placed on the Maine State Pier and moved to their current locations. Kirby asked how much the PPAC would be willing to pay, if anything, for the work. Muench said he was hesitant to proceed with something that was created as temporary work and might not withstand being moved. Lisberger asked whether the temporary work should continue to be renewed as temporary work. LaCasse felt strongly that they should be removed to encourage new temporary art to happen in those sites. The committee decided it could not afford to acquire these pieces at this price, especially since they are not all designed as permanent pieces or sited in desirable places. The committee would like to have the pieces removed. Lisberger agreed to reply to the artist turning down the offer and asking for the work to be removed. Hildreth asked how to proceed if the artist offers any of the work as a gift. Kirby suggested approaching that question only if the situation arises.

Other Business

Temporary Art: Anne Alexander Acorn work is being created in Deering Oaks Park near the Castle. A site still needs to be selected for installation. Lisberger asked who from the committee wants to be involved with selecting the site – Kirby and Cradock volunteered as the Temporary Art representatives.

Room 24: Lisberger asked whether the committee wants to follow through with the Mayor's suggestion of adding artwork to Room 24. Options might include paintings, murals, or other suggestions. LaCasse expressed a concern of placing anything with high value in a vulnerable and accessible location. She suggested historic photos.

Hildreth suggested posters promoting the public art collection. Lisberger asked for a committee member to take the lead on this project – no one volunteered to do so. Lisberger will first check with the City facilities staff about permissions and construction status of the room. LaCasse and Hildreth agreed that it would be a good opportunity to display or promote the PPAC work.

Spring Street: Lisberger suggested that the committee consider the redesigned Spring Street as a potential site for either temporary or permanent artwork. LaCasse will speak to Bruce Hyman about the potential locations.

[5:15 Cradock leaves]

Puffin: Lisberger reported that *Puffin* siting at Casco Bay Lines terminal will be voted on by the board on 9/24. LaCasse asked whether the event space in Ocean Gateway might be a better location. Lisberger reminded the committee that the donor wanted the Puffin sited where children could see it. Cameron suggested that it could potentially be sited in City Hall.

Love Locks: Cameron apprised the committee that the Love Locks fence will need to be removed and the PPAC was asked whether they wanted to play a role in siting the fence. The PPAC is not interested in pursuing this.

Las Bicicletas: Cameron was approached about a temporary installation from a Mexican artist called Las Bicicletas. The committee asked for more information about the cost and the length of installation. Spring Street would be a good site for this kind of installation. Other organizations would need to be approached for funding since it is a temporary work – PMA and donors were suggested.

Committee Bios: It was suggested that PPAC member bios be added to the website. This will be further discussed.

Adjourn at 5:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:
Caitlin Cameron