



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, December 16, 2015

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

Attendance;

Lin Lisberger, Chair, Julia Kirby, Vice-Chair, Jenna Crowder, James Cradock, Christopher Devlin, Penny Harris, Alison Hildreth, Pandora LaCasse, Tony Muench, Corey Templeton (Staff: Caitlin Cameron, Stuart O'Brien; Members of the Public: Carol Schiller, Councilor Ed Suslovic, Jessica Lipton, Laurie Davis, Carter Friend, John Rolf) Not in attendance: Councilor Marshall

Call to Order 4:01pm

Approve Minutes from November 18, 2015. LaCasse moves, Cradock seconds, unanimous (8-0) approval (Councilor Marshall absent).

Project Reports

Collection Assessment: Committee is still waiting for the final assessment report. Taggart will also produce a scope of work and budget for the Lincoln Fountain conservation work.

Art Underfoot: Lisberger sent wax molds to the artist for casting; waiting for bronzes to be completed.

Artwork Relocation: The committee is waiting for additional shingling estimates. The budget for 2016 needs to be adjusted to reflect these new estimates. Cameron spoke with Building Inspections about methods of moving the Gazebo and lifting from above is a possibility. The work will now have to be done in the Spring. No updates on the tiles – should be resumed in the Spring.

Temporary Art

Lisberger and Cameron explained the context for the requested revisions to the Temporary Art Guidelines and the current proposal. Cameron walked through the proposed revisions which will be sent as a communication to City Council. Devlin asked where the 30 days was determined as a cutoff for public participation. The original revisions were proposed by Councilor Suslovic and Corporation Counsel. There have not been any temporary art installations to date that were for fewer than 30 days. Therefore the notification/public participation would apply to most applications.

[4:19pm Harris arrives]

Lipton presented background of developing the temporary art guidelines which were originally intended for 6-12 month installations. Cameron also commented that there are separate guidelines for student work which tends to be very short installations.

Chair Lisberger then allowed for public comment from the two members of the public in attendance:

Suslovic: Revisions were motivated by feedback from constituents about public process and lack thereof in the case of the Noyes Street Fire Memorial. Art in this case is in a residential neighborhood. No notice was given to the

neighborhood and would like to see revisions based on this experience. Suggests limiting notification to residential zones or abutting.

Lipton: Proposes moving the section requiring notification so that it is incorporated into the current process.

Suslovic: Concerned that removing date of applicability means the revisions will not apply to current installations.

Lisberger: Clarification that the Noyes Street installation will end after 90 days and will not be extended.

Cameron: The changes are likely to go into effect prior to current projects are ready for renewal.

Schiller: Doesn't believe any revisions are needed. Oppose the suggestions and know that many residents felt notified and aware of the project. Feel the changes are targeted specifically against a project. Concern about inhibiting future temporary art.

Friend: Support the installation but did not know it was happening and support improving public notification.

Lipton: Do temporary project come to the PPAC meeting? Lisberger responded that the PPAC designees report to the PPAC on the temporary art applications but they are separate events.

Lipton: In-lieu of revisions to the guidelines, the public process could be tied to the PPAC meeting instead.

Davis: Feedback to the process is not mean-spirited or against art as a concept but need to emphasize that the personal response to art should be considered. Process did not get followed well – application was late and incomplete, decision was not as thorough as should have been. Process should be clear and followed. Would have helped to have an in-person meeting.

O'Brien: A few suggestions – to keep priority of keeping process nimble. Additional designees could be determined by the Councilors, for example. Is there a different expectation downtown versus residential zones. Tie notification requirements to direct abutters – remember that notification has a cost.

Lisberger reads comments from Ted Musgrave: Concern about staff time and expense associated with these proposed notification changes. Would entertain review of length of installation.

Lipton: Don't want to disincentivize arts happening off-peninsula.

PPAC discussion:

Crowder asked how allowing public comment affects the process. Lisberger responded that public comment would not have the ability to approve or deny an application. Cameron added that the process uses discussion to work through concerns of an application and that public comment would be another voice in that discussion.

LaCasse added that discussion is an important piece of the process. LaCasse added that the guidelines were created to help work through situations and potential problems. Cradock expressed concern about setting up hurdles and bias for on-peninsula versus off-peninsula proposals. Suslovic emphasized that the City has a responsibility to engage the public with adequate public notice, district councilor notification, and that notification is not onerous. O'Brien reminded staff that the legal requirements around notification should be verified. The committee recommends revisions to the Temporary Art Guidelines with two additional revisions as discussed in the meeting and with the understanding that staff will verify legal notification requirements to be submitted as a communication to City Council. [10-0, Kirby, Muench]

Subcommittee Reports

Site Selection Subcommittee:

The Congress Square Art Selection: The Requests for Qualifications were released December 22nd for both the artist and the design team.

Room 24: The construction is complete – the committee will approach the City again regarding this project.

Spring Street: Sites Selection subcommittee members are asked to do a site analysis.

Merrill Hall: Tabled until January.

Puffin: Cameron updated that the MOU is waiting City Manager approval.

Other Business

Little Water Girl: The request from Evanston Illinois was discussed again. Lisberger received feedback from the PMA, Alex Jaegerman, and Jonathan Taggart on this question of creating new castings. Although the mold could handle more castings, it was not created with that intention. Devlin asked what reasons the committee has for denying the request. The response was that there is no research or evidence to show there was intention to create additional versions of the statue. LaCasse reminded the committee that they have been advised by several experts not to allow for replicas to be produced. Hildreth pointed out the casting would also not be from the original mold. After discussion, the committee decided that without knowing the original intentions of the artist or the

Women's Christian Temperance League, it is not appropriate to create replicas of the statue that are not replacements of originals. The committee denies the request from Evanston, Illinois to use the mold of the Little Water Girl to create a replica statue. [10-0 LaCasse, Devlin]

Annual Report: Cameron and Lisberger presented the draft 2015 Annual Report and 2016 Budget Plan. The committee added some goals for 2016 to the end of the report. The budget was also adjusted to reflect a higher cost to repair the gazebo. The committee moves to send the 2015 Annual Report and 2016 Budget Plan with revisions to Council for approval. [10-0, LaCasse, Crowder]

Billboard: There is a proposal for a temporary art installation on a former sign in the Bayside neighborhood. It appears this sign is on private property and therefore would not need to go through the Temporary Art Guidelines.

Maine.com Office of Tourism: There is potentially going to be development of a citywide app where public art walking tours would be a welcome feature. The committee added the goal of developing public art walking tours to the Annual Report. Crowder would lead.

Adjourn at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:
Caitlin Cameron