

Public Art Committee minutes 5/14/19

Call to order 4:05

Attending: Jim Cradock, Jessica Lipton, Julia Kirby, and Lin Lisberger. Councilor Pious Ali (arrives 4:08) Absent: Alison Hildreth, Corey Templeton, Daniel Minter, Diana Greenwold, Kifah Abdulla, and Caitlin Cameron.

Minutes passed with some spelling changes: Cradock misspelled twice with two D's and Dela should be spelled with one L. Motion Lin Lisberger; second Jessica Lipton, unanimous approval

Portland Brick: Cradock said that the Portland Brick website has been updated with a better map interface. A few locations on the map have to be changed to more accurately reflect brick locations. Lisberger noted that the bricks and plaque on Commercial St. at the bottom of India have been replaced but that the sayings are now read from the street instead of the sidewalk. Is this okay?

Jewel Box Bus Shelter: Lisberger reported that Taggart has been notified of the funding but she doesn't believe he has submitted his plan for the work yet or a bill for the assessment work done.

MLK Memorial: Lisberger reported that the RFQ went public on 5/14/19. She reported on the first committee meeting and her explanations to the MLK committee about the process of doing an art RFQ and the appropriate timelines, etc. Crowder asked if the RFQ is listed on our website which led to a discussion about how to list and keep these things updated. Cradock suggested that he can make a page for "News" and include things like that if we want. He will also change the name of the "Resources" tab to "About" on the webpage.

USM Roundabout: Kirby listed the artists chosen as finalists and said that at the selection meeting there had been a feeling that there was nothing that really wowed the committee, but that the committee had decided not to restart, but to give the four finalists a chance to continue. Proposals are due by June 7. PPAC will be seeing them at the June 19 meeting, which will also serve as a public meeting for the project.

Governance: Ali talked a little about the new members. Kirby was reappointed and the two new members are Anna Berke, a fundraiser and arts supporter who did an excellent job showing her knowledge about public art, and Nick Aceto, a landscape architect. Lisberger announced that elections for Chair and Vice Chair are upcoming in the next few months. Kirby has said she would like to continue as Chair, but Lisberger will be stepping down as Vice Chair. She asked people to think about their interest in serving in that position.

Budget: Kirby discussed some of the budget as shown in the document provided by Cameron. Crowder had some questions about the total of \$12K for contingency funds versus the \$7K listed for contingency. Kirby pointed out that the \$12K includes \$5K for a community art project along with the \$7K. Lisberger asked where the \$30K already allocated for the USM Roundabout is listed.

Map: Kirby asked someone to decide on a sculpture of the month for June and Lipton volunteered to take care of it.

Marketing: Lipton said that the gallery she works for, Casco Bay Artisans (CBA), is willing to coordinate and fund a small PR activity with Casco Bay Lines around *Puffin*, but CBA would like to then be acknowledged on the promotional material. They are proposing having a “Draw *Puffin*” activity at CBL that they would supply cards and pencils for. They would then help to supervise it and market the event on social media. Crowder asked whether CBL had been asked if they could fund this and whether it is a good idea to bring on a private business just because they employ one of our members. Lipton said she had waited to see if there was funding before talking to CBL, but now that there is she will talk to CBL and see what their involvement will be. Lisberger suggested that once CBL has been contacted that the plan could proceed. There was general agreement that if CBA is contributing money and/or staff assistance that they should be acknowledged on publicity, along with PPAC and CBL.

Portland Landing: A call was put in to Cameron to find out what is happening with Portland Landing. She explained that there is likely to be an interim park developed once Thames St. is extended (2019-2020) and that PPAC might consider siting something like colorful windmills along Thames St. as a kind of lead-in to the park site. She also mentioned that Bramhall Square is also getting improvements and that that might be a potential public art site. The committee decided that it has a lot on its plate right now and would prefer to defer any of these suggestions until September 2019 or later.

Black Hawk sculpture: Kirby reported that she was on the site walk for the location of the Black Hawk sculpture being proposed by Friends of Deering Oaks Park. She is not comfortable with the site that has currently been selected but is comfortable that enough people are involved with this that if there is a better site it will be found. She met the artist (David Smus) and found him to be very thoughtful and responsive. Crowder reiterated our desire that a maintenance budget be established and funded by the Friends of Deering Oaks Park. Their fundraising website went live on 5/15.

Temporary art: *Mother Nurture* by Daniel Minter was approved for temporary art. Crowder said that there were some small conditions added, including some signage and lighting questions, and moving a few rocks, but that otherwise it was viewed as a strong proposal.

Other business: Kirby mentioned the Haystack exhibit opening 5/24 at the PMA, curated by Diana Greenwold, and said she would ask Greenwold for a committee tour sometime during the exhibit.

Meeting adjourned at 5:11