



Julia Kirby, Chair
Lin Lisberger, Vice-Chair
Kifah Abdulla
Nick Aceto
Anna Berke
James Cradock
Gibrian Foltz, Creative Portland
Diana Greenwold
Jessica Lauren Lipton
Kavya Seshacher
Mayor Kate Snyder

Management & Administration
Caitlin Cameron
Urban Designer, Planning Division

Portland Public Art Committee
Wednesday, January 15, 2020
4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Portland Public Library Room 3

Attendance: Julia Kirby, Chair, Nick Aceto, James Cradock, Gibrian Foltz, Diana Greenwold, Jess Lauren Lipton, Lin Lisberger, Kavya Seshachar. Not in attendance: Kifah Abdulla, Anna Berke, Mayor Snyder. Staff: Caitlin Cameron

Call to Order 4:02pm

Approve minutes with one correction from December 18, 2019 [Lisberger, Kirby 7-0 approve]

Project Reports

Conservation: Maintenance Plan template feedback received from artist and conservator – no additional changes. Lisberger asked whether these will be kept as hard copies or digital – both. **Committee moves to accept the template as a standard document [Lisberger: Cradock 7-0]**

Congress Square: Cameron updated on the status of the sculpture design development – will send progress images to the committee. Construction Document phase kick-off meeting happened this week for the Phase 1 intersection. Lisberger asked whether the orientation and material placement remains the same for the sculpture – yes but we asked Sze Studio to reconsider the orientation of the sculpture to be less frontal to the PMA.

Aceto arrives 4:15p

MLK Memorial: Lisberger gave an update on the status – two finalists expected to present to the public and selection committee February 6 at 5:30p in Council Chambers. Lisberger will send a reminder to the committee. This meeting will also be streamed live; open to the public/comment. Finalists are Bob Katz and TJD&A. There will be a meeting to follow the presentations to make a decision. What has been the public comment thus far? – Generally, like parts of each submission but not the whole. There were some specific comments but not a general consensus or recurring themes/topics to the comment. Are maintenance/durability part of the criteria? – Not part of the current discussion.

Roundabout: City Council will consider the change to the FY17 PPAC budget to reallocate \$48,000 from the Amethyst Lot project to the Roundabout. Meeting is 1/22/20 – Cameron will attend to represent. There was a pre-bid conference for the overall project contract which no questions specific to the artwork installation. The committee discussed the process and lessons learned for this project. Greenwold commented that in future selection processes the committee should hold the artist accountable to deliver the approved design rather than the degree of changes we experienced in this project. Having set meeting times for the committee to have project check-ins might be a good strategy.

Portland Landing: Lisberger asked how the reallocated funds will be used for the roundabout project and what will become of any unused money. – The project budget increased for the artist fee, the consultant fees, and the expected construction costs. Lisberger asked if any left over funds could be dedicated towards conservation/maintenance – this is not specified in the Council request.

Subcommittee Reports

Governance/Board Development:

- Confirm which committee member terms expire in June – Lisberger and Greenwold
- Cameron to confirm how much money is in the donation account.
- Lipton confirmed Councilor Ali will leave the committee, the Mayor may be the new representative.

Communications:

- **Marketing:** Lipton will have a draft rack card for review at February meeting. Discussion needed around production and distribution and funding sources. Kirby asked what the distribution plan is and whether this is worth the committees efforts? Lipton was considering hotels, Ocean Gateway, galleries, cruise ships as potential locations for materials.
- **Sculpture of the Month:** Beach Pea
- **Videos:** Cradock and Lipton will edit the remaining video material. Jesse Salisbury video not produced.
- **Website:** Lisberger asked whether any updates/work on the website is needed and whether there are volunteers for this. Cradock responded that a page for temporary art and non-collection art had been previously discussed but not executed. The question was raised whether the PPAC website should include non-collection/public artwork – Foltz asked how the committee would determine what is to be included. Cameron pointed out someone would need to update these pages. Lipton suggested a social media feed for this instead and add an Instagram feed.
- **Education/Outreach:** Lipton would still like to pursue a way to engage high school students. This would include generating content with social media and identifying funding sources to make a map with METRO. Lipton would manage this project. Aceto commented that interaction and public-generated content is exciting prospect. Cradock added that there would be some work to moderate this content but that would be a good problem to have. Greenwold asked whether there would be a way to approve the content before it appears on the PPAC site. Lipton offered that posts which tag PPAC could then be shared.

Other Business:

- Poetry bench proposal brought to Creative Portland
- Foltz gave an update on the Creative Portland bus shelter project – RFP closed; submissions under review – 4 shelters proposed, locations unknown. Update at next meeting.
- Temporary Art: TempoArts proposal coming with Jesse Salisbury at Fish Point. Lisberger raised the idea that this might want to be acquired as a permanent work.
- Factory 3 tour offered – Kirby will organize
- Press request from Channel 6 regarding diversity – committee decided not to comment

Adjourn at 5:22 p

Respectfully Submitted: Caitlin Cameron

**Friends of Deering Oaks
Great Black Hawk Sculpture Project
Update to Portland Public Art Committee
February 12, 2020**

Background On July 9, 2019, the Portland Public Art Committee (“PPAC”) considered a proposal by Friends of Deering Oaks (“FoDO”) to commission and install a full-size bronze sculpture of the juvenile Great Black Hawk from South America which traveled far outside its normal range to reside in Deering Oaks for two months before succumbing to frostbite in January 2019.

Maine wildlife sculptor David Smus presented a maquette displaying his proposed representation of the hawk, to be placed on a mahogany granite pillar in the location in Deering Oaks where the hawk was frequently seen. As part of his presentation, Smus noted that, subject to fundraising, the project partners would like to add a bronze squirrel to the base to reflect the interaction of the hawk and squirrels, which became its sustenance in the absence of its usual prey (lizards, etc.).

The sculpture of the Great Black hawk and granite base were approved unanimously, with the potential addition of the squirrel and placement subject to subsequent PPAC review and vote.

PPAC Comments re the Potential Addition of the Squirrel

- ~~Not originally receptive, but upon reflection, thinks the squirrel will add appeal to kids, provide a sense of discovery;
- ~~The squirrel would add a sense of humor to the piece;
- ~~Adding the squirrel makes the piece less of a monument to the hawk and helps tell the larger story of its interaction with local wildlife;
- ~~The squirrel should be lower, visually distinct from the hawk, and attached very securely to the pillar;
- ~~Perhaps the squirrel should be placed at the eye level of kids, rather than higher, to deter jumping up to hang down from it or to access the hawk sculpture;
- ~~Perhaps the squirrel should be placed so it is looking up at the back of the hawk;
- ~~The mass of the proposed squirrel addition was considered “a bit heavy in contrast to the hawk” and should perhaps be reduced;
- ~~Vandalism is a concern, but do not forgo project elements because of fear of vandalism.

Project Update

- ~~Sculptor Smus has been hard at work crafting the clay model of the hawk. He expects it to be completed by late February/early March. He has been consulting with the foundry and they have devised a way to reduce the mass of the squirrel mold, which had been used in different sculpture. He will present the maquette and the proposed representation/placement of the squirrel at the PPAC meeting on February 19.

~~The City and Friends of Deering Oaks have agreed on a Memorandum of Understanding, which is in the process of being executed by the parties, including the stonemason who will install the piece.

~~The Friends has raised approximately \$20,000, 73% of the projected cost, including the squirrel. It is confident of raising the balance.

~~An installation is planned for late May-early June, with an on-site ceremony unveiling the work and conveying the piece to the City's Public Art Collection.