James Cradock, Chair
Jessica Lauren Lipton. Vice Chair
Councilor Pious Ali
Nick Aceto
Anna Berke
Gibrian Foltz, Creative Portland
Diana Greenwold
Lin Lisberger
Kavya Seshachar

Management & Administration
Caitlin Cameron
Urban Designer, Planning Division

PORTLAND PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE

Wednesday, July 15, 2020
4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Online via Zoom

Attendance: Jim Cradock, Chair, Jess Lipton, Vice-Chair, Lin Lisberger, Anna Berke, James Cradock, Gibrian Foltz, Jess Lipton Nick Aceto, Diana Greenwold, Mayor Snyder, Kavya Seshachar
Not in attendance: none
Staff: Caitlin Cameron
Members of the Public: none

Call to Order 4:05
Approve Minutes from June 17, 2020 **[Lisberger; Greenwold 8-0 unanimous approval]**

Project Reports

Great Black Hawk: July 17 installation. Lisberger will confirm status of the bronze plaque/sign delivery. Kirby will prepare a press release on behalf of PPAC. Lisberger updated that the plaque was delivered by Burr to the monument company that day. PPAC members are invited to the unveiling ceremony on July 17th @11a.

Maintenance/Conservation: no updates – some outstanding items on the current contract to be completed. Lisberger spoke with Taggart about assessing the mural as additional scope.

Congress Square: Design Development of the artwork will conclude August with delivery of renderings. Sze Studio is proposing lighting changes – this will mean additional expenses for design and installation. Cradock asked whether that has implications on the utility layout (Cameron answered not in the Phase 1 but will need to be addressed during construction documents for Phase 2).

MLK Memorial: No updates

Roundabout: Project remains on schedule for now; construction continues.

East Bayside Mural: Cameron initiated a conversation about the potential deaccession of the Schoultz mural at Fox Field. The Facilities department reported further tagging to the mural and interest for a temporary project there. The state of the mural is also deteriorated. Lisberger recalled the artist has been difficult to get a hold of in the past. Greenwold asked who is responsible for maintenance of the artwork. Lisberger responded that PPAC is financially responsible for the artwork itself. Cradock suggested getting Taggart's opinion on the status and cost of conservation prior to contacting the artist regarding deaccession. Lipton agreed she would like a sense of the cost to maintain the artwork. Feels this conversation overlaps with the task set forward by the recent Council resolution – would like more information before making a decision. Kirby requested there be a plan in place to replace the artwork before taking it away. General consensus from committee that more information is needed prior to making a recommendation regarding deaccession. The questions was raised whether the graffiti should be removed at this time – Lipton suggested that unless the tagging is profane/obscene could wait until a decision is made about the deaccession vs. conservation. Learning Works was proposed as a possible resource here.

<u>Subcommittee Reports – need to confirm subcommittee members</u>

Governance/Board Development:

- Council Resolution: The committee reviewed the clause pertaining to public art in the recent Council resolution regarding racial equity. Mayor Snyder provided context for the resolution and public art clause: artists approached the City offering gifts of artworks related to racial equity (Ryan Adams and Susannah Hunt). The resolution is to determine whether existing or new policies exist to allow for these kinds of installations, including temporary installations within the street. Several committee members asked whether existing processes, including the temporary art permit process could accommodate this kind of project. Lipton proposed the existing temporary art guidelines and process might be amended to allow quicker response to timely proposals. Lipton also posited whether the committee might establish a permanent location as a pre-approved site for temporary art. Cradock proposed using the existing guidelines to determine if the proposal should be categorized as permanent or temporary. Lipton offered to draft revisions to the temporary art guidelines. Mayor Snyder has had conversations with the artists and their proposal is a gift and not proposed to have cost implications to the City. She asked whether there is process in place that allows for community engagement especially when the content may be political. Lisberger asked how this proposal cannot fit within the temporary art permit process. Lipton suggested revisions that better address street/painting projects. Lisberger felt enough flexibility was already written into the guidelines/process and to remember that City Council would have to approve any revisions. Mayor Snyder raised the point that there are special considerations for alterations to the sidewalks and streets and other agencies may need to be involved such as Maine DOT. The wastewater wall is considered too temporary and out of sight to accommodate some of these proposals. Lipton added that PPAC could identify streets as eligible locations. Cameron added that there are other examples of how temporary artwork happens in the city including through event permits and city projects such as the electrical box painting where the City initiates a project on its own property without the need for a permit/public review. Cradock felt public process is important here and asked what the next steps are. Lipton proposed this is the purview of the Sites Selection Subcommittee to discuss potential sites. Cameron asked the Mayor what the timeline is for the tasks of the Council resolution and whether the committee felt their monthly meetings were sufficient public forum to engage this work and conversation. Mayor responded that there is no specific deadline and should not be rushed. Committee agreed that no public process beyond the monthly meeting was needed for this work.
  <u>Action items: Cradock offered to meet with the artists to review the proposal and give guidance on process forward. Lipton will consider potential revisions to the existing temporary art guidelines.</u>

[Snyder leaves 5:15p]

- Budget: Committee reviewed a revised version of the FY21 Budget proposal. Revisions include $12k for contingency, $33k for new project. Lisberger voiced support for designating Bramhall Square as a new project. Cradock agreed. Committee will wait to vote on the budget with the Annual Report in September. Lisberger asked when these will be brought to the Council? Cradock decided to hold these items until September.
- Annual Report – Cradock would like to revise to add goals around education and the decolonization recommendations. The site priority list should also be included. New projects such as the pinecone gift and Blaze community artwork will need to be added if approved. Should goals for FY21 be added regarding decolonization of collection? Revisions to the temporary art guidelines could also be incorporated into the annual report.

Communications: <u>Action Item: Lipton will schedule a meeting of this subcommittee</u>

- **Marketing**: none

- **Sculpture of the Month**: none
- **Social Media**: Seshachar prosed a social media scavenger hunt to encourage engagement with the collection. Lisberger asked how to market this idea.
- **USM Video**: Cradock posted video as well as updated Lincoln Park photos.
  <u>Action item: Cradock will provide analytics from Facebook and website.</u>

Site Selection: <u>Action Item: Lipton will schedule a meeting of this subcommittee</u>

- Potential sites and priorities: Aceto is updating maps to reflect public/private parcel info. Existing sites map is missing identified gateway locations. Lipton would also like to identify wall locations for murals as well as priority sites.

Gifts:

- Lipton to contact Aida Wojcik to decline mosaic proposal.
- Gifts committee conducted a site visit and made recommendations for the Pinecone sculpture by Pat Pluorde, proposed Deering Oaks site. Historic Preservation will hear the proposal at the September 2nd meeting. Parks Department was contacted. The question was raised how to handle future proposals within Deering Oaks which is becoming saturated with artwork/memorials.

<u>Other Business:</u>

- **Community Artwork – Blaze:** Cameron presented the final proposal and budget request. Lipton asked for clarification of the funding sources. Cameron is contributing $2,000 in cash, budget differentiates between in-kind contributions and requested funds. Have not heard from Maine Arts Commission regarding grant application. Lipton expressed concern about PPAC funding going to PPAC members and the optics of their involvement. Is there quorum for a vote with two members recused? Yes, 7 members. Lipton asked whether the funding could be split into installations. Berke asked whether other projects are losing out if the requested amount goes to this project – using funds from previously approved fiscal years where no community art proposals were received. Greenwold voiced the opinion that the project should be funded in full or not at all. This project is not being chosen over other projects – no competitive process for this category of artwork. Berke asked whether it is okay to combine funds from past years. Lisberger asked someone to draft talking points about the project in case of inquiries.

[Aceto leaves 6:15pm]

[Greenwold leaves 6:21pm]

- **Temporary Art**: TEMPOArts installation opening reception July 24th. Tempo provided a price list to acquire the work if that interests the committee in the future.
- **Collection Research/Assessment**: Cradock reported that Maine Historical Society is writing a report about George Cleeves. Lisberger asked how to address a memorial that is to more than one person.

Next Meeting – August 19, 2020 (online) one hour only

Adjourn at 6:21 pm