

City of South Portland
Arts and Historic Preservation Committee
Meeting
May 3, 2017
Planning Department, Sawyer & Ocean Sts.
MINUTES

Present: Adrian Dowling, Tex Haeuser, Hannah Holmes, Liz Salamone, Aimee Turner, Alessa Wylie, Joshua Reny, Craig Piper, Steve Sawyer (Sebago Technics), Steve Cecil (Harriman; by phone)

Absent: Kathy DiPhilippo, Doreen Gay, Scott Whitaker

Adrian called the meeting to order at 8:03am and announced that Rick Elias has resigned from the committee.

April Minutes approved.

Steve Sawyer: recap of Mill Creek progress: there will be a testing of the Waterman Drive etc. lane redesigns using cones. This is a 2-3 month process.

Steve Cecil – transition from Portland to South Portland. What are we doing and why? The options are large. We need to narrow down actionable ideas. Show a difference – transition / brand – how are we different from Portland?

Steve C. – Everyone: say three words that describe South Portland for you.

Adrian – alive – active – green

Josh – interesting – values open space

Liz – good stewards of the environment (cites Greenbelt)

Aimée – communal and inclusive – shared resources (golf course, pool, etc; no gated communities)

Alessa – communal

Craig – “downtown” – traditional commercial and municipal center

Hannah – cozy (esp related to Mill Creek – compact & convenient)

Tex – creative

Tex – an standard light fixture has been adopted citywide for lighting design

Craig – Battle of the Bridge – change / surprise

Modern version of the lighthouse – vertical – beacon that can be seen

Steve C. – lighting that changes / transitions meaning

Adrian – light the CMP transmission towers with color that changes seasonally / for events, etc

Concern with sign clutter

Regarding the “Interstate” design signage on the CBB - Could this be better? Is it required? Liz: the green signs feel like a miscue. Adrian: they encourage people to drive faster because they feel like it’s the Interstate. Josh: too many different place names and messages. Steve S: this signage is not required. We need wayfinding signage that is intuitive.

Aimée – thinking about Craig’s upright beacon – could the signage feature be non-English based (pictorial/image, NOT writing); a nod to the changing make-up of SoPo residents as well as the multi-cultural tourists

Craig – something from the air? “SoPo” like “LAX”? Thomas Knight Park - River Fires (like Providence RI?) A series of features starting in the water/cove continuing into the land in three points

Steve C. - Regarding a charrette – good for building participation, stewardship and enthusiasm, but not a good vehicle for making decisions

Adrian (to Steve C.) – we’d appreciate some professional assistance / guidance – how do we transform these ideas into action?

Tex – we have a limited budget for the Mill Creek Master Plan – it would be appropriate to seek additional funding from the council

Steve C – there may be parallel agendas that we should be mindful of

Josh – Wayfinding program – brand process in the Economic Development Committee RIGHT NOW. However, not changing logo or tagline. Looking for continuity of design (font, theme) for the signage.

MINUTE TAKING – After a 2-yr stint, Aimée will be stepping back from minute-taking. Task will now rotate among members.

Hannah volunteers to be the minute-taker at the June meeting.

Adrian – at June meeting members can sign up to be minute-takers at future meetings

MEETING TIME – Adrian - One-hour meetings don’t give us enough time to cover our agendas. Need to try 90-min meetings for a while and see if that helps/works.

Group - Two members have schedule conflicts with Wednesdays. We will now meet on the first THURSDAY of every month instead of the first Wednesday, and will try starting at 7:30 instead of 8 in order to accommodate some members who can’t stay past 9am.

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY June 8, 7:30-9am.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30am.