

City of South Portland
Arts and Historic Preservation Committee
Meeting
March 1, 2017
Planning Department, Sawyer & Ocean Sts.
MINUTES

Present: Adrian Dowling, Rick Elias, Doreen Gay, Tex Haeuser, Hannah Holmes, Kathy DiPhilippo, Liz Salamone, Aimée Turner, Alessa Wylie
Absent: Scott Whitaker

Adrian called the meeting to order at 8:03am.

1. Review of February minutes. Minutes accepted with minor changes.
2. MILLCREEK DESIGN UPDATE: Tex: Working on Capital Improvement Requests. Phases: rezoning, revitalization, streetscape improvements. Waterman Drive is going on a "road diet" – reducing an automobile lane (adding a bike lane) and reducing a light phase.
BIKE IMPROVEMENTS: This is a joint grant application with Cape Elizabeth and Portland. In Cape, sidewalks near schools. In SoPo, Willard Park (Cottage & Pillsbury), and Waterman Drive. In Portland, York Street. Fairly high probability of receiving the grant. Streetlights are in the plan for Year 2.
Discussion: how could the Waterman Drive / Bridge arrival into SoPo be beautified by public art? Kathy suggests art themed around the Liberty Ships. Doreen suggests signage themed according to the history of the community. Tex suggests a joint meeting with Sebago Technics and an ad-hoc subcommittee – will bring more info to April meeting.
3. PORTLAND PUBLIC ART: Julia Kirby from the Portland Public Art Committee. She has been a member for 4 years and will be taking over as chair in July. The Board consists of 11 members; subcommittees include Governance, Communication, and Art in Our Front Yard. There are currently 58 works in the Collection. The CIP budget is used for maintenance and conservation, mostly. Installed public art is expected to be permanent for up to 25 years. There is a subcommittee for shorter-term art / TempoArt. Lincoln Park Fountain is part of the Collection and is experiencing a renovation.
The Portland Public Art website is stand-alone (not municipal) and is mainly for education. Art frequently comes unsolicited by donors, which can sometimes present a challenge to find a proper place to install it. Congress Square is currently high on the priority list for renovation and inclusion of art. A light sculpture is being commissioned for Woodfords Corner (largely because the Woodfords Project has transformed from a traffic project to a "place-making" project). Public meetings provide opportunity for comment. The Art Trail is working off the Bernard Langley Trail (Langley works are in four Portland schools). Regarding temporary art, the cost of installing, insuring, etc, is on the artist. Adrian wondered if the Portland Public Art Committee might have any interest at some point in the future in collaborating with South Portland on art pieces at Portland/South Portland gateway locations (Casco Bay Bridge, Jetport area, etc); Julia said they would be open to discussing it.
4. PUBLIC ART SUB-COMMITTEE. The planned meeting was snowed out and will be rescheduled.
5. NEXT INITIATIVES: Tabled until April.

Meeting adjourned 9:00am.

Next meeting: April 5, 2017, 8:00am.