

CITY OF SOUTH PORTLAND
Arts & Historic Preservation Committee
July 6, 2017 • 7:45 AM to 9:00 AM
City Council Chambers
South Portland City Hall

Meeting Minutes

Members in attendance:

Adrian Dowling, Chairman
Doreen Gay
Susan Hasson
Liz Salamone
Alessa Wylie

Members absent:

Kathryn DiPhilippo
Hannah Holmes
Aimée Turner

Staff present:

Charles “Tex” Haeuser, Dir. of
Planning & Development
Joshua Reny, Asst. City
Manager

Adrian called the meeting to order at 7:50 AM, welcomed all in attendance, and took minutes for the meeting. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved unanimously.

Josh spoke about progress with the city’s Wayfinding Signs program, aided by the city’s contracted engineering firm. A branding company has been selected to assist with this program. As the program progresses, the AHPC will be consulted for feedback and review regarding the design and style of the signs.

Adrian mentioned the committee’s longstanding desire to install small signs or markers to identify South Portland’s villages and neighborhoods (e.g., Meetinghouse Hill, Thornton Heights, Brick Hill, et al.) similar to the neighborhood/village signs found in Portland, as a way of fostering awareness and appreciation of South Portland history. He pointed out that the AHPC has no budget and therefore has been unable to act on this idea; he suggested it might be more efficient to include it in the city’s Wayfinding Signs program rather than trying to do it separately. The group thought this was a good idea, keeping in mind that there is a desire to minimize sign clutter.

The group discussed the proposal for a pedestrian/bicycle bridge over the intersection of Broadway and Waterman Drive and how this bridge could be a gateway element as well as an art element. The group also discussed how aesthetic improvements to the South Portland side of the Casco Bay Bridge — lighting, banners, paint — could both beautify the bridge and be part of the larger gateway to the city.

Adrian mentioned that the AHPC has never asked the City Council for anything (e.g., funding, additional staff support, other types of resources); Josh said it would be reasonable for the committee to approach the council with requests and/or proposals. The group discussed how to do this, especially with proposals for public art.

Adrian suggested that the group should spend some time at a future meeting to review the ordinance language that establishes the AHPC; review the mission statement; work on short-term and long-term goals; and explore the possibility of holding a workshop with the City Council.

The group discussed the large interstate highway-style signage on the Casco Bay Bridge; several members feel that this signage is unattractive and encourages speeding. Josh and Tex have been in contact with MDOT about possibilities for replacing the existing signs with a more attractive design, contingent on South Portland having a Wayfinding Signs program in place.

Adrian reminded the group of the attendance requirements for city committees.

Doreen reiterated her desire to begin the historic preservation subcommittee. Alessa said she would reach out to Julie Larry from Greater Portland Landmarks to assist with that.

With several members scheduled to be out of state in August, the group agreed to postpone the August meeting and to resume in September.

Meeting adjourned at 8:49 AM.