

## MINUTES

Public Art Committee Meeting  
June 16, 2016

Present: Joe Moore, Courtney Stubbert, Debbie Williamson-Smith; Robin Selover, Betsy Wolfston, Committee Members; Isaac Marquez, Cultural Services Staff; Emily Proudfoot, Parks & Open Space staff.

Absent: Justin Lamphear, Mike Penwell, Jennifer Knapp, Committee Members; Tomi Douglas-Anderson, Cultural Services Director.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The March minutes were approved.

### **Park Projects:**

#### **Wind Reed Tree, Bethel Park**

Emily explained that three sculptures were purchased with 1% for art funds generated from a 1998 Parks & Open Space bond. Only one of the sculptures was installed (in Bethel Park), the other two have been in storage. Emily said the original plan was to put each one in a different park but Parks staff now believe they should all be placed in Bethel Park. Emily came to ask the committee for funding assistance for the installation. She stated that approximately \$2K is needed to perform the installation; funding currently exists in the public art fund, leftover from the parks bond measure, to install art that we already own. Courtney asked how much money is left in the fund; Emily responded \$2500 to \$2800. Isaac said he could follow up with the exact amount of money left for this purpose. Committee members voted unanimously to approve using the designated funds to perform the installation. Emily and Isaac will follow up and confirm the final location and exact cost.

#### **Monroe Park Sculpture**

Isaac reminded committee members the sculpture in Monroe Park was previously designated for deaccessioning (by the committee) some time ago. Isaac gave a brief history of the deaccessioning policy and recent changes to the policy including process, notice and waiting period. He stated that follow through on the changes to the deaccessioning policy, public notification and a final vote by the Public Art Committee still needed to take place. This sculpture would be the first to be deaccessioned under the updated policy. Isaac said that preserving the sculpture would be cost prohibitive and a search for the artist has been unsuccessful. Isaac also shared that the neighborhood is very invested in the sculpture, so the plan at this time is to present what we've learned to neighborhood association (Jefferson/Westside) in order to provide notice to the neighborhood. Emily noted there are safety concerns related to the sculpture. Debbie suggested placing a notice on the actual sculpture. Emily suggested a QR code that would provide information about what's happening with the sculpture.

Debbie asked what would happen to the piece if it was deaccessioned; would it go to the land fill or be recycled. Isaac responded that it would be great if we could locate the artist to get his opinion about what to do with it, or offer it back to him. Jennifer asked what we would do with the feedback we receive from the neighborhood; Isaac responded that he would bring it back to the committee. Joe asked if it was a liability for the committee; Isaac and Emily responded that it's a liability for the City but

not the committee. Courtney asked if it could be modified/adapted by another artist. This prompted a discussion among committee members, generating the following suggestions/ideas:

1. Art after life – piece would remain on site in some other form.
2. Give it to another artist to modify.
3. Sell it.
4. Donate it to BRING Recycling's sculpture garden.
5. Fundraise for a new piece to replace it with part of all of the funding coming from a neighborhood matching grant (if there is interest from the neighborhood to apply).
6. Replace it with something vertical, with a smaller footprint – similar to the Wind Reed.

Committee members were in agreement that it is currently a liability and suggested that Isaac have options for the neighborhood group when he makes his presentation. Committee members also discussed other ways the space occupied by the sculpture could be used that might be more desirable to the public. Isaac will present the options to the neighborhood group and report back to the committee afterwards.

As a side note, Isaac reported that murals at the WJ Skatepark have been defaced. Both artists are coming back this summer to work on the murals so Isaac will have them graffiti coated at that time.

### **Mural Project Update**

Debbie shared that the number of murals has doubled with the first mural starting on Tuesday on the side of Cowfish; the artist is from Brazil. Debbie said the hope is to have three murals completed by the end of summer. A second artist is coming in August and the location for the next mural is yet to be determined but we have a great map of possible mural locations. Debbie said she is unsure of the artist being considered for the third mural. She said the Duck Store is sponsoring the murals with discounted paint and many exciting partnerships are happening around this project. Debbie stated the project had just been launched on social media and committee members should look for 20x21 EUG on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Isaac presented a slideshow with examples of some of the artists' works. He expressed that the system is working very well; the City has been managing the legal agreements with property owners and things are moving quickly.

### **Public Art Artist Residency**

Isaac apologized to committee members for this item being on the table so long. He said the approach is not working and suggested looking for a partnership instead of space to help get the project off the ground. Courtney concurred with Isaac. Isaac said the money is still available in the budget but recommends approaching John Finn at the University of Oregon to get emerging leaders in the arts networks to help get the project started. Debbie asked about Charly Swing and Arts Eugene as an option; she will contact Charly.

### **City Hall Update**

The project team has put together packages for bid proposals, McKenzie Commercial will put together and present the cost of the final package to the City Council in early July. Council will make a decision on whether or not to approve funding for the new building. Joe asked if it would potentially create additional funds for art; Isaac responded yes; it will generate 1% for art so if project budget is increased, so will the art budget be.

### **Committee Member Terms**

Isaac conveyed that June is the month members usually rotate on/off the committee but since the group hasn't met for two months membership will be reviewed at a future time. Isaac shared there are six applicants but the only current openings are for visual artists. Isaac also pointed out that Joe's chairmanship is coming to an end so the committee needs to elect a new chair. Isaac said the committee can take some time to elect a new chair – we have a grace period. Joe asked if anyone was interested in chairing the committee; Debbie responded no. Isaac and Joe explained the responsibilities involved with chairing the committee. This item will be revisited in the future.

### **Public Art Committee Work Plan 2016-2017**

Joe suggested mapping out some objectives for the next ten meetings. Isaac asked for suggestions from committee members on the best way to accomplish this work. Betsy suggested a retreat; Joe suggested weaving it into existing meeting times or virtually, via email. Courtney suggested either a focused retreat or creating a subcommittee. The committee agreed on a focused retreat. Joe suggested putting together context ahead of time that includes both history and looking forward.

Isaac suggested the July meeting could be used to establish context and then have the retreat on a later date. He said the shifting of roles will be on hold until after the retreat, the committee will maintain the status quo for now.