

City of South Portland
Arts and Historic Preservation Committee
Meeting
July 8, 2015, 8:00-9:00am
Planning Department, Sawyer & Ocean Sts.
MINUTES

Present: Adrian Dowling, Amanda Larson, Jessica Routhier, Aimée Turner, Scott Whitaker.

Absent: Jane Batzell, Kathy DiPhilippo Tex Hauser, Rob Schreiber, John Schwartzman

Jessica Routhier called the meeting to order at 8:07am.

The entire session session circled around discussing finer points of the language of the Mission statement which is currently under development. Jessica provided a worksheet of the various proposed versions of the Mission statement.

Points discussed:

- Are we supposed to be proactive or reactive? Our advisory capacity (in the ordinance language) asks us to be more reactive, something of an aid to City Council. Despite this reactivity, for a new committee we've successful become involved even with projects already underway.
- The word "assist" in the text is ambiguous. Longevity of the committee will help to define and mature us into our role in the City. Namely, we should aim to "get up ahead of things." However, this might be better to discuss in a Vision statement.
- We are the aesthetic conscience of the City, and as such we are a valued resource. Although we are advisory, we shouldn't define ourselves too weakly. We have an important role to play here.
- Although we are currently trying to complete the Mission statement, we are already earmarking points that don't "make it" into the Mission because they may be better suited for the Vision. The Vision is more of a "rally cry."
- To determine whether we are meeting our missions, we need a quantitative "measuring stick" for our goals (for example, the Environmental Committee has a 40% recycling goal). Our metric could be an educational event, providing resources. A presence at Art in the Park (2016) is a possibility.

Jessica will wordsmith our ideas into one or two versions of the Mission, which we will review and vote on at the August meeting. We will also consider developing a survey querying South Portland residents about the issues we oversee.

Meeting adjourned at 9:14am.

Next meeting: August 12, 8:00am.