

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 circled around discussing the Mission and Vision statements. It was determined that the Ordinance language serves as an appropriate Mission statement, and that the finer points which have been proposed up to this point serve better as the language of a Vision statement. Jessica provided a worksheet of the various proposed language.

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 successfully 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."
- 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.
- The Vision is our "rally cry."
- To determine whether we are meeting our Mission and Vision, 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 Vision, which we will review and potentially 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.