

**South Portland Arts and Historic Preservation Committee**  
**Minutes for February 10, 2016**

**Present:** Jane Batzell, Kathy DiPhilippo, Adrian Dowling, Tex Haeuser, Amanda Larson, and Jessica Routhier.

**Absent:** Rob Schreiber, Aimee Turner, Scott Whitaker

Jessica called the meeting to order at 8 a.m.

1. Adrian moved to approve the minutes from January 13; Amanda seconded. Minutes approved unanimously.

2. The group reviewed the responses to date for the public survey about the AHPC. The survey launch was expedited in order to coincide with the timing of the January 22 story in the *Sentry*. There were 46 responses as of the date of the meeting, with about 24 substantive responses.

Among the talking points that stood out to committee members were the following:

- create and implement a formal strategic plan
- create a list of important local properties/landmarks and articulate which of these are at particular risk
- create a list of public art
- bring more public art to South Portland
- work cooperatively with the South Portland Historical Society and not duplicate efforts
- set some standards for historic preservation and design, but they should not be too restrictive
- broad concern about the west end of town, which is perceived by some as underserved or less economically advantaged—we are urged to be advocates for positive growth in that area
- work with the schools to bring historic preservation into the curriculum

Particular areas/properties mentioned included:

- Mahoney Middle School\*
- Turner's Island†
- Brown's Hill cemetery (and city cemeteries broadly)
- The Post Office and its WPA mural
- The Armory
- Knightville (broadly)
- Mill Creek (broadly)
- Rigby Yard

\*Tex suggested that Jessica reach out to the chair of the committee evaluating Mahoney's future use, Jim Landau, to let him know we're interested in its preservation.

†Someone suggested that it might be a good idea to invite Brad Weeks to attend a future committee meeting to talk about Turner's Island.

3. The committee also discussed options for gathering further public feedback. After some discussion, the group agreed that it's now our job to take the public feedback from the survey and turn it into some kind of operational or strategic plan. We will begin work on this in earnest at the March meeting of the AHPC.

4. Other business

- Tex reviewed several current and ongoing planning and development projects.
- He indicated that he is actively looking for grant funding for the design development stage of the Greenbelt Walkway Bridge project, and is open to suggestions.
- He reported that funding has been allocated for the design phase of an initial Mill Creek Redevelopment project focused on the Erskine Drive gateway to Mill Creek. He pointed out that there may be an opportunity for public art near the intersection of the bridge and Erskine.
- He also noted a possible opportunity for public art near the McArthur Circle entrance, as part of the West End master plan. Adrian noted that there is already an existing monument in that general area.
- He also noted that language is being developed for an ordinance about solar energy, and that there may be design issues (in regards to panels, etc.) that AHPC will want to weigh in on.

5. Jessica adjourned the meeting at 8:56 a.m.

The next AHPC meeting is Wednesday, March 9, at 8 a.m. at the Planning Department.