

City of South Portland
Arts & Historic Preservation Committee
May 1st, 2019
Planning and Development Department

Members in attendance:

Hannah Holmes, Chairperson
Jessica Kessler, Secretary
Mary DeRose
Doreen Gay, Vice Chairperson
Kathy DiPhilipppo, South Portland Historical Society

Absent:

Jon Godin
Alessa Wylie, Greater Portland Landmarks

Staff in attendance:

Justin Barker, Community Planner

Chairperson Hannah Holmes called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

Minutes: Mary will redistribute the April Minutes, as members did not receive them in time for this meeting. Kathy made a motion to accept the minutes submitted by Jessie from the two special meetings (approval of light wand design on 3/20/19, and retreat to update historic resource list on 4/16/19). Motion was seconded by Mary, and passed unanimously.

Membership Update: Members discussed possible leads on new members. Kathy noted that she has an interested colleague. Members discussed Mark Aliquo, who has attended a few meetings but still has to undergo the nomination process. Members also discussed the possibility of Adrian Dowling rejoining the group. Mary has been in touch with Adrian and says he is awaiting a response from his city councilor in order to proceed.

Adaptive reuse discussion: Members discussed the results of the city council workshop. Justin relayed the two minor changes made by councilors, explaining them in depth. The ordinance is headed to the Planning Board for a public hearing on June 12th, at 7pm. All members are encouraged to attend the meeting and speak in support of the ordinance.

Gateway Update: Justin gave an update on the Gateway project, stating that Portland has accepted the modified light wand design. Members reviewed other aspects of the project, revisiting concerns over the existing highway-style signage. Members reiterated their desire to remove the signage. Kathy made a motion to pressure the DOT to remove the signage as part of the Gateway project. Jessie seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Historic Resource List Update: Justin received a call from a community member requesting that 311 Pine Street be added to the list. Members discussed setting another retreat date, with Justin offering to conduct an online poll. Members resolved to devote next month's meeting to working on the list, rather than scheduling a subcommittee meeting.

Armory Kiosk Update: Doreen gave an update on her search for supporting materials for the kiosk. She was able to connect with Jonathan Bratten, the National Guard archivist, who enthusiastically supplied her with a wealth of photographs and documents.

Round Robin Goals: Members discussed their goals for 2019, listing the removal of the highway signage on the bridge and increasing committee membership. Jessie suggested focusing more on public art, with an idea of colored crosswalks in school zones as a low-barrier start. Members also listed updating the Millcreek holiday light display.

Mary made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Jessie.

Meeting concluded at 9 a.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 5th, 2019 at 7:30 a.m.