

City of South Portland
Arts and Historic Preservation Committee
Meeting
April 5, 2017
Planning Department, Sawyer & Ocean Sts.
MINUTES

Present: Kathy DiPhilippo, Adrian Dowling, Doreen Gay, Tex Haeuser, Hannah Holmes, Liz Salamone, Aimee Turner, Alessa Wylie

Absent: Rick Elias, Scott Whitaker

Guests Present: Maxine Beecher, Steve Cecil (Harriman Architects & Engineers), Tom Colby, Craig Piper, Joshua Reny, Steve Sawyer (Sebago Technics)

Adrian called the meeting to order at 8:06am.

1. Review of March minutes. Minutes accepted. Copy of Art Subcommittee Report was distributed to the group.
2. Mill Creek Design (Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee members in attendance as reflected above). Craig: Zoning Amendments changed in summer, then CIP – what investments can the City do including the Gateway landmark.
 - a. Descriptor for the City – coming across the Casco Bay Bridge
 - b. making this area the “downtown” and a “unique node” of the City; history (farming and the sea), growth
 - c. Tex: Waterman Drive – bike lane, buffering, extra parking. The CIP was originally in 2018 but has been bumped to 2020 in hopes of a PACTS grant (Portland Area Comprehensive Transportation System). General street improvements. Streetlights. Expect a traditional streetscape, but MORE due to the entryway – Art/design components
 - d. CMP transmission towers could be a design opportunity; we should pursue this with CMP
 - e. Skate park in Legere Park – young people made a thoughtful and mature request before Council
 - f. Steve Sawyer – Pedestrian crossing of Broadway / Waterman... something that is a gateway element rather than merely functional.
 - g. Craig - Sitewalk with Patrick Cullen, horticulturist and designer of NYC High Line Park. Opportunities for stormwater treatment, a unique landscape treatment. Wildflowers and seasonality. Native plants. He’s dialed in to the major vehicular aspect. Incorporate public art and further gateway elements in key locations
 - h. Business owners of Millcreek – redevelopment is in planning now. The Master Plan can dovetail with this redevelopment.

3. Presentation by Steve Cecil of Harriman Architects & Engineers, one of the country's oldest architectural design firms. "How to put places together." Public Art is a way of creating gateways and places.
 - a. Urban Design – Placemaking and sequence. Understand vantage points, unusual identity, perception of a place.
 - b. What are you addressing? Arriving? Leaving? Directionality.
 - c. Overview of art movements:
 - c.i. Neo-classical / Beaux Arts – Many places in the US are a lookback to Rome, even with a sense of a place in "planned ruins". Fragmentary, romanticism.
 - c.ii. City Beautiful. Bilaterally symmetrical. Came out of "Ponts et Chaussées" Movement. Infrastructure Art. Boston's Longfellow Bridge is an example. Integrate an interpretive area. A terracing wall includes quotes from Longfellow with web links to the full poems.
 - d. Ideas
 - d.i. LED Banners
 - d.ii. Paint and Paving; landscape elements like plants
 - d.iii. Signage you can see from the air (arrival & departure from PWM)
 - d.iv. Sequenced signage (BurmaShave) – message built along the way; movement
 - d.v. Seattle: Skatepark under the I-5 overpass: doesn't rain there and nothing grows!
 - d.vi. San Diego neighborhood/district signage.... Each district has distinct character
 - d.vii. Play with scale
 - d.viii. Integrated Art – Art telling the story
 - d.ix. Take traditional elements and use the ideas in a contemporary way; visual language
 - d.x. Play with the seasons, time of day, lighting (direct and indirect)
 - e. Comments & Questions:
 - e.i. Craig – how did the examples get funded and implemented? Steve – Percent for Art as part of design; programs get sponsored by Arts Councils (esp. in Boston); public input for a permanent piece; temporary installations become permanent because people love it. TAKE THE TIME YOU NEED TO THINK IT THROUGH.

- e.ii. Tex – the two committees (CPIC & AHPC) should continue working together. A charrette?
- e.iii. Kathy – maintain our unique identity based in what and who we are
- e.iv. Aimee – charrette should be intentionally multi-generational
- e.v. Josh – Economic Development Committee is working on new signage RIGHT NOW!
- e.vi. Steve – involve Public Works and Parks & Rec a lot – they need to maintain these spaces

4. Historic Preservation Subcommittee: Alessa puts herself forward as Chair

5. Art Subcommittee update: tabled due to lack of time.

Meeting adjourned 9:12am. Next meeting, May 3, 2017, 8am, Planning Department Office.