

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

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

Absent: none

Scott called the meeting to order at 8:03am.

1. Review of December minutes. Minutes accepted with no changes.
2. MILLCREEK DESIGN UPDATE: Tex: meeting by property owners, discussed zoning, energy & water use benchmarking, and streetscaping. Dick Goldrick, owner of Millcreek Shopping Center, expressed concern over the proposal to eliminate left turn lanes onto Waterman Drive (in favor of bike lanes, updated streetscape, etc). Tex says traffic signals will be more efficient and his concerns about congestion will allayed. Millcreek Design Committee meets Jan 6.
3. PORTLAND PUBLIC ART: representative(s) will attend our February meeting. Talking points may include TEMPOart, the High School Courtyard. Adrian and Liz have “recruited” some individuals to participate in the Art Subcommittee. Hannah: jewelry artist Elizabeth Pryor is a strong possibility as well. Adrian is planning a meeting for February which will be about an hour-long brainstorming session.

Doreen asks if there is a list of art in South Portland. Adrian: no, and that’s something on the Art Subcom agenda – to start creating a list. Tex: regardless of how one may “feel” about the oil tank art, Art All Around needs to be acknowledged.

4. COMMITTEE VACANCIES: Doreen: Rick Elias is being put forth by Councilor Morgan; his focus will likely be more on the historic side. With his addition, the AHPC will be at full capacity again.
5. LIBRARY: Aimée: Library Director Kevis Davis has connected with the engineering firm for the City, and a cursory survey has confirmed library safety concerns about the state of the parking lot. Due to a variety of factors, including the addition to Brown School 10 years ago, drainage is faulty. This will likely fall under the purview of more than one City department (not just the library). This is relevant to the building because work to the exterior (new pedestrian pathways, lighting, etc) should be in keeping with the architectural design of Library, which is in the planning phases of a Master Plan for updates to the building itself. Scott has asked that Kevin bring his site drawing and blueprints to the planning office so a copy can be made for our committee.
6. NEW MEMBER PACKETS: No discussion.
7. NEW BUSINESS: Doreen: why is there no catalog of art and historic buildings for South Portland? Kathy has a lot, but it’s not exhaustive. Doreen cites the historicity of her parish (People’s United Methodist), has contacted her friend Art who used to give historic tours of the City. Scott: We provide counsel back to the City.

What do we consider a historic structure? (**This is a big and complex discussion**). If we create a list we can work toward evaluating historicity. Everyone should bring a list of structures or artwork from their neighborhood. However, “any old shack” doesn’t qualify, not by NPS or the State. There is a desire to be proactive through this committee, however, that is not our edict and its taking time to mature our committee. NPS has a 50-year designation. Every year we have new inventory to evaluate. The Historic Subcommittee can create the definition for us. A survey is a jumping off point but it is only raw data, and many older buildings do not have a lot of architectural integrity. This effort should be broader than individual buildings. We are trying to define and identify the intangible: What makes this feel like South Portland? Our task is in fact to be the arbiters, even if it feels uncomfortable. We need to start by starting. May need to create a form with components as a quantitative assessment tool. We can solicit information via local publications (ie The Sentry) – Kathy mentions Historical Society column as an opportunity (Adrian reminds that he is willing to write for this column). But what if home- or business owners don’t want to be on The List? Public record is public, and historicity could be a layer

added to the City Survey. The first Historic Subcommittee meeting should address the nuts and bolts of this definition. Some feel that we haven't "done" a lot, but we only meet 12 hours per year. Subcommittees will be able and willing to do homework outside of Committee meetings. There is an online survey, we can re-boot it and re-publicize it.... What properties in your neighborhood are significant/important?

8. Next meeting: February 1, 8am, Planning Office.

Meeting adjourned 9:20am.