

## **Salem Public Art Commission Meeting**

The Public Art Commission (PAC) was held on Tuesday, July 18, 2017, in Room 314, Third Floor at 120 Washington Street, Salem, MA.

Norene Gachignard, Chair of PAC called the meeting to order at 6: 04pm.

### **Roll Call:**

Members Present: Norene Gachignard, Lillian Hsu, Janine Liberty, J. Michael Sullivan, Amanda Moore, Jim Fallon and Deborah Greel, Public Art Planner

### **Approval of June Minutes:**

Hsu made a motion to approve. Fallon seconded the motion.

**Discussion:** Moore asked for language to be changed for description of the “Whispers of Salem” that was attributed to her: “Moore said that it doesn’t sound like he added more to the piece than necessary.”

Hsu noted the paragraph in Updates about the Lesley University Artists’ Row Design that listed what the Design Review Board (DRB) and the Salem Redevelopment approved should have included what would be the next steps for the project which had been discussed at the June meeting. She also noted that we discussed that the whole design should be implemented or it will lose the impact of the project if it isn’t done all at once.

Motion passes: 5-0 1 Abstention Liberty was not at the June meeting.

### **Discussion of 2017 – 2018 Work Plan**

Gachignard brought up the issue of having minutes recorded from someone other than Greel. Hsu and Gachignard said that the minutes are a public document and are provided to the public. Gachignard said the PAC should make a request to Tom Daniels, Director of the Planning Dept. to fund a clerk to take the minutes of the meeting and she said would reach out to him.

Sullivan said that the participation in the meeting would improve and the notes would be more accurate if Greel wasn’t taking the notes. Hsu said that the PAC needs to be supported and Sullivan noted that Greel’s role is different as she is a large part of the discussion.

Moore asked about the list of organizations that the Public Art Commission supports. Gachignard asked if all of the funds of the budget were spent. Sullivan asked if community art and site-specific art was combined and the money spent. Greel said \$7,500 of the budget included the community art and site specific are which was spent on “Celebrating the Urban Environment”. Gachignard asked if we are allocating 2017-2018 funds this year for Celebrating the Urban Environment. Hsu said that we can agree how we want to spend the money and also noted to keep money in the budget for signage. Sullivan asked if we are doing the mural slam or can that come out of the Derby Square/Artists’ Row revolving account. Moore suggested we have a column of the programs listed in the Work Plan that we run. Hsu said that we can blend the two tables but it should reflect projects that are completed.

Moore asked about the forums and Greel suggested that we start discussions on hosting them earlier in the fiscal year for planning and implementation. Hsu also noted that we should start planning earlier for projects and to roll out the Request for Proposals in January. Moore said we should discuss the budget and to agree on allocation of the funds. Greel said to merge the documents for all the projects supported by the public art program both financial and in-kind support.

Sullivan asked about the success of Celebrating the Urban Environment and continuing the program. Moore mentioned how the launch of the Artists' In-Residence program will activate the space at Artists' Row. Liberty said that the mural slam also activates the Row space. Hsu noted that the murals have a finite life and we should consider moving them inside will continue their life. She also said there are a lot of bare walls in public buildings that could host them.

Moore and Sullivan asked about a map and an app for public art in Salem. Greel said that there isn't one but it is something that the city should work towards.

### **Updates:**

#### **Celebrating the Urban Environment**

**Whispers of Salem** – Moore said that the artist had changed the project as requested and Liberty noted he had fixed the “bug” that was there in the original rollout. Hsu said the project elevates the idea of public art, is novel and has value. Liberty concurred that the project is interesting and brings novelty. Gachignard noted that we need to do a press release to the public as it deserves promotion. Hsu also mentioned that we should promote on social media. Moore said that in the newer app version of “Whispers of Salem” that the sounds attach to each other with layers.

#### **Artists' Row**

**Artist in Residence Program** – Greel said the program began last Thursday with about 20 plus people coming during the 3-7pm time period. Paraschiv had two tables that participants could ‘decorate’ with natural materials including wood bark, shells, rocks and material. Paraschiv had all the materials for the top of the table in tin pots on a Row cart. Although the weather was cold and damp there was much enthusiasm for the project. Of note is that many parents of young children came so it became more of a children's project than multi-age. Greel suggested that we call on some artists to come down to the Row to help participate in the building of the community tables. Week two will bring Annie Scott of Thrive Design to plant the garden boxes. Cady Goldfield, a volunteer, will be working on the planted gardens by weeding and mulching. The ivy on the wall of the Lobster Shanty will get a ‘hair cut’ to make that wall more presentable.

**Lesley University Artists' Row Redesign** – Two stalls will be completed this week with new doors and windows. The picture windows are making a huge difference in seeing inside the stall and they provide so much better lighting. The bathrooms are being painted this week and the barn door will be installed. Paraschiv will paint the barn door in chalkboard paint and keep the calendar until the end of August.

Hsu asked if we have the budget to finish the project and Greel said that there is enough money to finish.

**Public Comments** – Agnes Jacobs, Salem resident, said that Artists Row could be better and more inviting. The visibility of art inside and the public interaction could be better. Greel explained what is happening at the Row with the Lesley University Project and the improvements being made for visibility. Sullivan noted that there is a study by the Cecil Group, looking at the challenges of the Row and possible solutions. He also said that the city has recognized the importance of the art area. He also suggested that she reach out to her Ward Councilor about the plan and ask for support for funding projects on the Row in the study. Councilor Stephen Dibble, PAC liaison, mentioned the Community Preservation Act (CPA) and the Row might be eligible for that funding since it helps with open space and maintenance. Dibble also said that he got the Row bathrooms designed and built.

Hsu and Moore asked how are capital improvement projects approved and funded. Sullivan asked about Dixon Memorial Chapel and how that was funded. Greel said it was a combination of CPA funds and a grant from Massachusetts Historic Commission.

Hsu reiterated that the city invested in the Cecil Group Study of the Row and that they build on that investment and choose to fund and implement some of the things in the study. Moore noted that there is a menu of choices in the final Row report and asked what we could do to push action on the report. As far as funding, Dibble, noted that CPA funding requests are submitted to the Council for approval. He also said advocacy is the way to go and that the council should have descriptions of the projects that aren't funded.

Moore will be leaving the PAC as she is moving to Winchester. The commissioners and Greel expressed their gratitude for her service.

### **Adjourn**

Moore made a motion to adjourn. Liberty seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned: 7:26pm