

SALEM PUBLIC ART COMMISSION MEETING
Minutes
November 20, 2018

The Public Art Commission Meeting, Tuesday, November 20, 2018 at 6:30 pm, 98 Washington Street, 1st Floor

Norene Gachignard, chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm.

Roll Call:

Members Present: Norene Gachignard, John Andrews, Kurt Ankeny-Beauchamp, Carly Naik Dwyer, and Kate Luchini, Public Art Planner

Members Not Present: J Michael Sullivan, Janine Liberty, Emily Larsen,

Approval of October Minutes:

Andrews made a motion to approve the minutes; Ankeny-Beauchamp seconded motion; approved unanimously

- Liz Polay-Wettengel, LCC grant updates and partnership opportunities -- deferred

Updates and discussion:

Old Town Hall RFP

- Hall would benefit with building management, as well as programming and promotion of events and rentals
- Mayor would like to extend existing agreement for one year to explore opportunities and building improvements
- Luchini considering submitting an MCC Cultural Facilities Fund grant to upgrade HVAC; has enlisted BLW Engineers, Inc. to conduct a full review of the existing HVAC systems and requirements of installing historically-sensitive AC
- Interest has been expressed by History Alive and Salem Museum to sign a new agreement, Salem Art Association has also expressed interest in the building. Root does not have the capacity at this time to put forward an application, though they may have future interest for a "Market" theme.
- OTH has a funding deficit for operational costs as Council did not approve increased funding request to meet heating cost increase—do we have to request additional funds from them?
- PAC agrees with Luchini that event rental rates must be increased cover the cost of heat and cleaning. This does not require Council approval, Luchini will move forward.

Artists' Row RFP

- ZBY closed, temporary tenant, painter John Bonner, for December and possibly January
- Determining when to put out new RFP for spaces

Discussion of mission draft - deferred

Discussion of 2019 PAC plan:

- How to bring public art to more neighborhoods in the City? What need can public art fill—improved safety, way-finding, etc?

- Possible concentration on wayfinding and design and entry points/gateways into town
- Opportunity at the cruise and ferry port to help direct and engage visitors
- Christine Madore suggests colorful crosswalks or similar safety improvements in various neighborhoods
- PAC would like to avoid focusing on events, would prefer projects with more visibility and lasting impact.
- Seattle inspired the Mayor with its activation of alleyways—like Higginson lighting project
- Kurt Ankeny-Beauchamp suggests a possible revamp of the “red line” to include retail, art, history veterans memorials, public benches
- The PAC feels that being the voice of design would benefit the city
- Partnering with Destination Salem and Salem Main Streets would be beneficial for any initiative

Public Art interactive map

- There is a new intern in planning who can begin creating a “Story Map” of Salem Public Art to coordinate with Don Daly’s inventory.

Other Business

- MBTA underpass—need to decide on RFP for spring
 - Possible Native artist project? Could work with PEM/Karen Kramer
 - Should include lighting, not necessarily in first phase

Discussion with Christine Madore

- Christine would like to schedule a meeting with the City Council to get to know the public art commissioners and to open a conversation about possibilities for additional public art funding, for instance through a percent of the marijuana tax. She will ask the city Clerk will to schedule a joint meeting, possibly in January
- She feels that connecting constituent services with public art is a great approach to win over the council. She suggests the PAC should steer away from the historic preservation narrative.
- Feels that the council is more understanding when looking at hard numbers

Public Comments

Adjourn

Ankeny-Beauchamp motion to adjourn; Seconded by Andrews; motion to adjourn approved at 8:04pm