

Salem Public Art Commission Meeting Minutes

The Public Art Commission (PAC) was held on Tuesday, June 19, 2018, in medium conference room at 98 Washington Street.

Norene Gachignard, Chair of PAC called the meeting to order at 6:34pm.

Roll Call:

Members Present: Norene Gachignard, John Andrews, Janine Liberty, Emily Larsen, Carly Naik Dwyer, Kurt Ankeny-Beauchamp, and Kate Luchini Staff Planner for Art & Culture

Members Not Present: J Michael Sullivan

Approval of May minutes:

Liberty made a motion to approve. Dwyer Naik seconded the motion.
Motion passes: 5 in favor

Motion to take the agenda out of order

Ankeny-Beauchamp made a motion to approve. Liberty seconded the motion.
Motion passes: 5 in favor

Salem Sound Coastwatch New Drain Mural Project Proposal

Discussion:

Salem Sound Coastwatch plans to revamp the drain murals; currently the intention was unclear and they were difficult to maintain. There will be templates used to make each mural more uniform and easier to repaint. They have created a map of current murals and the 15 proposed new murals. Andrews suggested minimizing the size of the murals to not inhibit foot traffic. The murals will be branded with Salem Sound Coastwatch and SPAC logo. There will also be an attempt to document the process for the public.

Hilary Grimes "Raise Your Hands Up" public art proposal

Grimes proposed a "Raise Your Hands Up" project which calls attention to the displacement of children at the border by inviting local children to make and sign their own painted handprints. She came before the PAC to request space to create and install the public art project. Gachignard suggested Artist Row. Larsen recommended using plywood (instead of the paper Grimes suggested, due to wear and tear). Liberty asked where the funding would come from, Grimes said she planned on self-funding. Liberty suggested paying for the paint out of the PAC budget. Ankeny-Beauchamp asked whether there would be a problem using city/PAC funds to support a political statement. Grimes argued that it's a humanitarian statement and Andrews agreed that "If you're doing a public art project that is raising social awareness it is more social acceptable."

De-accessioning "Pavilion" and "From a Dark Place"

Luchini brought to PAC's attention issues with both pieces: there have been resident complaints that Pavillion is not ADA compliant and doesn't allow proper sidewalk access; From a Dark Place is torn and in poor condition.

Discussion: The PAC discussed possible reuse of materials from Pavilion and From a Dark Place. Logistically it would be too difficult to move the pieces and they are in poor condition. Rather than cut the torn pieces of From a Dark Place to clean it up, PAC felt it was important to reveal the damaged infrastructure the mural is currently hiding to draw attention to needed improvements. Luchini mentioned this space would be a good opportunity for a mural or other public art that would highlight the adjacent bike path. The PAC made a motion to De-accession both pieces.

Andrews made a motion to approve. Liberty seconded the motion.
Motion passes: 5 in favor

Light Cube Schedule and Location

Andrews wanted to know how accessible the cubes would be, could they be used for the PEM block party. Luchini feels they should be used as much as possible throughout the summer and enjoyed.

Marketing for the PAC Initiatives

Liberty feels that the social media promotion for the cubes is important. The instagram password has been lost, Luchini will reach out to previous members. Andrews has added everyone on PAC as an admin on Facebook. Gachignard asked what other marketing the PAC will do? Andrews reviewed the current plan; Larsen has developed a draft design for the A frame that has been ordered, and rack cards can be ordered. It has been decided to combine the Performer Series and the light cubes in one written piece that will point people to social media for details of the cube pop ups.

Updates:

Artists' Row/Salem Art Festival/Mural Slam b. Alley Lighting

Alley lighting Luchini has completed the PO for the lighting of Higginson Alley. She is now coordinating with DPS, legal and other city departments for the installation.

Salem Arts festival all agreed it was the best yet. The press was good, including Northshore Magazine and NBC's top 5 things to do, and the crowd was huge. The 200 performers felt very welcomed and were glad for the opportunity as most arts festivals are largely vendors and visual artists. This year also increased the following of Salem Arts Festival.

Artists Row Andrews reminded the PAC that they would need to determine whether there will funds to pay for the ArtistsRowSalem.com and the domain for the Salem Public Art website.

Other Business

Gachignard reminded the PAC of a need for a vice chair.

Andrews would like to determine language for the Salem PAC mission. Gachignard requested a copy of the current mission to review.

Andrews suggested revisiting the utility boxes, updating the process. Many boxes need to be updated or redone. There are also some boxes painted by artists who are now successful muralists.

Gachignard would like to see the PAC build a better relationship with the Salem Cultural Council, possibly take turns going to other meetings. They have \$15,000 in grants and it would benefit both groups. Luchini inquired if the PAC has ever talked to Moulton's office about potential grants. Liberty would like to join forces with other commissions to see what combining budgets and knowledge can do.

Luchini informed the PAC that the public art is currently being catalogued by Don Daly. Ankeny-Beauchamp wanted to know how to access the database and used it to market on social media.

Public Comment

Adjournment:

Ankeny-Beauchamp made a motion to adjourn. Andrews seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm