

MISSOULA PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE MINUTES

February 20, 2018 – 4:00 PM

Jack Reidy Conference Room

140 W. Pine, Missoula, MT 59802

Committee Members Present: Helen Hallenbeck, Courtney LeBlanc, Taag Peterson, Peter Lambros, Cathay Smith(via phone), Kathi Olson,

Committee Members Absent: Doug Olson, Kia Lyszak, Julie Armstrong

Others Present: Becca McCarron (ARTS Missoula), Annette Marchessault (MRA)

1. Call to Order 4:09 pm

2. No Public Comment

3. Guest(s)

- **Annette Marchesseault with MRA [Montana Rail Link Park, Franklin to the Fort Neighborhood; Public Art in the Park]**
 - a. *Presentation* Missoula Redevelopment Agency is working with the Parks Department to design a new park in the Franklin to the Fort Neighborhood. This lot was purchased by the City from the Montana Rail Link. 4.5 acres in total.
 - b. This will complete the Bitterroot Trail and the southern portion of the purchased lot will become a public park. The northern portion of the land has buildings that will be attended to in the future. These buildings are slated to become low and moderate income housing [this is just a concept]. This park also connects Central Ave.
 - c. This park design has been evolved through very detailed neighborhood and public input process. There have been public workshops and open houses to gauge what the community wants from this park. The Master Plan is in place to include: open lawn area, off leash dog park, multi-use basketball court, volleyball area, lawn games, playground, railroad interpretive area (Rail Link sponsoring this), etc.
 - d. The vision is in place and they have established a budget. The railroad that runs through this area is not abandoned, but not active.
 - e. The designers want the park to reflect the heritage and origin of the site. Trains inspire the geometry of the park including the community gardens, playground, etc. Montana Rail Link has artifacts from the rail yard that could be installed in the park to be functional. For example: MRL carts to haul objects are low to the ground and have been sketched to become benches, etc.
 - f. The call for a playground designer is out. They have just gotten a contractor on board. The goal is to make this park construction quick and economical.
 - g. There is not a firm construction budget. 1.5 million is the entire park budget. That should land us somewhere between 1.25 Million and 1.1 Million. With the 1.5% for art that leaves us with 17,000 to 22,000 for Public Art (closer to 12-15,000 without .5%).
 - h. Annette proposes that some of the railroad artifacts become the public art. Or, an artist that is selected from the community might collaborate with the designer on a piece. Combine the use

of the 15,000 into the work of the designer with the railroad artifacts. Ideally they would want the artist to be in communication with the designer.

- i. Discussion on the rail yard artifacts and getting them to the park. MRL is making the artifacts available to the City by donation but perhaps MRA would have to foot transportation, engineering, etc? Details need to be worked out about what these pieces are worth and how much refurbishing they need.
- j. Kathi explains that we have three options. 1) We have a call for an artist that would work within the railroad theme and collaborate with the designer 2) Based on the artifacts an artist has to make something out of one of the artifacts 3) That our public art funding would be put toward the installation of the artifacts. Our bylaws explain that we cannot do the last option because our fund is for art not landscaping, etc. An artist would have to be actually creating something. An artist could potentially make something that is functional (bike racks in the past).
- k. Park timeline: Break ground in April and do excavation and earthwork. Landscape in late summer. Open park by end of September. The park will most likely not be 100% done by then. There may be unfinished pieces that come later.
- l. Peter explains that PAC often has more success when there is an avenue to turn our funds from 15-17,000 to 50,000. Is there a possibility for matching funds? Washington Corp Foundation? Can MRA begin this conversation? What size of piece do we want?
- m. If the PAC is using money to have artifacts incorporated anyway, PAC would be maintaining that work. Those pieces themselves are not art.
- n. An artist working with a designer might compromise the artist and complicate the process. Taag explains that he feels an artist can make a piece that doesn't even necessarily collaborate with the train theme. It could be abstracted and less thematic. An artist could think contextually about it and come up with something amazing. Annette feels the piece should not be too out of place in the park.
- o. MRA and Annette need an answer by the end of March from PAC. PAC will make a decision at March meeting.
- p. Peter wants everyone involved to be jointly excited about a path. Peter wants to see the bar get raised higher and see a small amount of money potentially turn into a larger amount used to create something amazing. How can we bring in a higher level of accomplishment with an artist that is different than what the designer has created? We are all working towards the same goal of supporting Missoula and making this park the best it can be.
- q. Cathay discusses our 1.5% actually going into this project. Is this the choice we want to make? Peter says that when a percent comes into a project, we are guided to put that into it. If a project doesn't fit, we have contemplated before moving the piece elsewhere. The process can take its own course but we are charged with the piece for this park.
- r. There is a lot to contemplate. PAC will make a decision at March meeting and think it over. There is an opportunity to produce something that fits and integrates into the park but also brings a higher outcome.
- s. This should be a team effort between the artist and designers.
- t. At March Meeting: What is our charge we are trying to raise? Matching funds? Annette explains that in the coming weeks there will be more answers about what relics are available, the budget, time constraints, etc.

- u. This is quite a short time frame. PAC must take into account timing and also the call process that can be time consuming. PAC call process might not even pull through with a piece. A piece could potentially go in after the park is finished.
- v. Annette will give us more information by our March meeting. Annette will plant a seed of possible funding at her future meetings.
- w. Create March Agenda Item: Discuss and decide recommended process moving forward with Montana Rail Link Park Public Art. Subcommittee meet before March meeting?
- x. PAC discussed public art ordinances and percent for art structure. Cathay will look into ordinance.
- y. Annette will be in touch.

4. Approval of Minutes

- a. January 9, 2018 - Tabled to March Meeting

5. UofM School of Art Pilot Program Update - Peter

- a. Becca updates Committee on UofM Pilot Packet. Dates for submission were approved to be shifted over a month each semester. City Attorney requested that liability language be added to the packet. This liability info would need to be approved by Kevin Bell and the University. Also, Mayor's office needs to approve this liability language and date change. Committee discussed liability in terms of who is hanging hooks into walls.
- b. It would be ideal to coordinate who is going to put in the hanging structures. Designate a specific time so a PAC member, Becca, Matt and students can be there. Reinvestigate faculty commitment to students responsibility to cleaning walls, etc.
- c. Becca will reach out to Matt to confirm that he is willing. Becca will let Peter know what Matt says and bring it to the City. Peter will touch base with City Attorney and Mayor. Becca draft an email for Peter to send to Mayor with appropriate wording for UM Pilot packet approval.

6. Lighting for Perseverance & Passage Update- Taag

- a. Tabled to March.

7. MCAT Documentary Update - Courtney

- a. Off Agenda moving forward.

8. Traffic Signal Box Update & Public Art Guide – Kathi

- a. Traffic Signal Box art call should be ready for next month. We may have up to 5 box opportunities. The time frame will be the same as last year. Kathi is trying to get together with the Heart of Missoula Neighborhood. There will be two in this neighborhood (orange and spruce, higgins and pine).
- b. This year's Public Art Guide is in the works. Jacque from the Missoulian is working on this. The Missoulian has been so generous with their time and resources helping us with this project. If anyone knows of any new public art, let Kathi know.

9. New Park, Parking Space Annual Art Project - Julie

- a. Tabled to March.

10. Kickstarter Fundraising Effort - Kathi

- a. Tabled to March.

11. Art Project/Themeless Call - Peter

- a. Tabled to March.

12. Yearly Goals Discussion [Catalog & Condition Reporting] - Peter

- a. Tabled to March.

13. Becca Updates [Parking Meter Project, Bloomberg Philanthropies, etc.]

- a. Bloomberg Philanthropies Public Art Challenge Grant has been brought to our attention. Courtney discusses approaching our local Native American Communities to see if there is a possible project with them. The grant calls for a temporary project. Courtney will get in touch with her resources. Becca and Kathi will help.

14. No Announcements, News, or Upcoming Events

15. No Comments

16. Adjournment 6:25pm

The City makes reasonable accommodations for any known disability that may interfere with a person's ability to participate in this meeting. People needing assistance should provide advanced notice to allow adequate time to make needed arrangements. Please call Heidi Bakula at (406) 552-6003 or write her at Mayor's office, 435 Ryman, Missoula, MT 59802 to make the request known.

STRATEGIC PLANNING GOALS 2017-2019

Mission: The Public Art Committee affirms the city's role as an advocate to public art, fosters and enriches the aesthetic of the City of Missoula, values and promotes the contributions of artists to the community and furthers the objectives of Missoula City Ordinance 3221.

Vision: The Public Art Committee envisions a community where art and artists are valued, and where public art is integrated into the fabric of our place, and enhances the quality of life of its citizens.

YEAR 1-2017

Outreach and Awareness

- A. Create monthly marketing PSAs
- B. Improve website
- C. Begin public art education for artists
- D. Make quarterly reports to council
- E. Establish a more formal connection to U of M art department
- F. Engage in community feedback

Governance

- A. Actively invite native representation onto committee
- B. Bring accounting and professional reporting to council
- C. Create annual planning and follow plan
- D. Create a catalogue and condition report
- E. Intentional use of staff and chair time

Quality

- A. Increase art call submissions

Fundraising and Project Development

- A. Pursue the idea of joining county
- B. Increase staff time
- C. Deepen our relationships to other Public Art Committees for inspiration and funding ideas
- D. Actively seek out grant funding
- E. Enrich private/public partnerships

Projects

- A. One big project per year- form committee
- B. Public Art Guide
- C. Parking meters
- D. Lighting for Crossings
- E. Lighting for Perseverance and Passage
- F. Traffic Signal Boxes

YEAR 2- 2018

Outreach and Awareness

- A. Create a public art scavenger hunt
- B. Continued public art education for artists
- C. Create a friends of public art volunteer group
- D. Enrich relationships with local artists by holding artists events

Quality

- A. Hit maintenance harder

Fundraising and Project Development

- A. Continue to increase staff time
- B. Enrich private and public partnerships

Projects

- A. One big project per year
- B. Sculpture Park
- C. Live art/painting and music
- D. Community interactive art

YEAR 3- 2019

Fundraising and Project Development

- A. Continue to increase staff time
- B. Ask city for project specific money

Projects

- A. One big project per year
- B. Bench project