

City of South Portland  
Arts and Historic Preservation Committee  
Meeting  
May 13, 2015, 8:00-9:00am  
Planning Department, Sawyer & Ocean Sts.  
MINUTES

Present: Jane Batzell, Adrian Dowling, Tex Haeuser, Amanda Larson, Jessica Routhier, Aimée Turner, Scott Whitaker. Absent: Kathy DiPhilippo, Rob Schreiber, John Schwartzman

Jessica Routhier called the meeting to order at 8:00am.

**Update on Armory Project:**

Tex: Zoning language has been approved for the final time at City Council. We're waiting for the LaTulippe site plan which will come to Committees for review & comment.

Many committee members feel that at least one member should attend meetings (workshops, City Council, etc) where matters to which we have contributed language or taken a position are being voted on. When our recommendations are being evaluated, we can serve to strengthen or clarify the position through our presence. Now that we are formed and assembled as a committee we will have more involvement at the early stages of a project, rather than coming in at a time when the project is well underway.

**Millcreek Redevelopment & Pedestrian Bridge**

Tex: A pedestrian bridge is being developed to connect the Greenbelt/Eastern Trail to Casco Bay Bridge. \$12,000 for design/development; City will use a structural engineer and a graphic artist to provide the design as well as proposed images and elevations. He meets May 15 with Figg, a construction company specializing in bridges (including the Penobscot Narrows Bridge and the Sarah Long Bridge in Portsmouth). Still to be determined: what kind of bridge? Features? Materials, colors, symbolism?

Millcreek Master Plan is moving forward. Committee members echo Kathy's concern from an earlier meeting that the bank building at the Legion Square roundabout should NOT be razed during the redevelopment. Jane reminds us that it is an attractive building and characteristic of the neighborhood, and that architectural diversity should be a key part of the Plan. This building and the Masonic Lodge ought to be preserved. (Committee members agree.)

**Mission Statement:**

Return to conversation about performance or non-permanent art; education & advocacy. Committee decides to re-distribute the ideas for the mission/vision statement for review by the committee prior to the monthly meeting (we keep running out of time).

Aimee: Mission should be a brief statement, vision is more elaborate.

Amanda: a mission is: "What you do / who you do it for / why it matters."

Jessica: a vision statement can be more freeform.

Scott: we have more latitude in the vision statement.

Jane: we can have real impact by following a vision statement.

Aimee: Our vision could include “presence at other relevant meetings.”

Tex: and outreach.

**Other business:**

Jessica needs committee members’ demographic info for completion of an NEA survey of agencies & programs. The survey is also asking about our three biggest priorities and our three biggest challenges over the next 24 months. Scott motions that Jessica will craft that response to the survey and bring it to the next meeting for review, seconded by Jane, unanimous vote in favor.

**Next meeting: June 10, 8:00am.**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Aimée L. Turner

City of South Portland  
Arts and Historic Preservation Committee  
Meeting  
June 10, 2015, 8:00-9:15am  
Planning Department, Sawyer & Ocean Sts.  
MINUTES

Present: Jane Batzell, Adrian Dowling, Tex Haeuser, Amanda Larson, Jessica Routhier, Rob Schreiber, Aimée Turner, Scott Whitaker. Absent: Kathy DiPhilippo, John Schwartzman.

Also present: Hilary Bassett, Christopher Closs, and Hannah Allen, from Greater Portland Landmarks.

Jessica Routhier called the meeting to order at 8:05am.

Minutes of May 13 meeting accepted.

**Discussion: Meeting Schedule**

Changes to the meeting schedule were discussed. We shall keep the existing schedule (2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month, 8:00am) year-round.

**Presentation** by Greater Portland Landmarks on the Willard Neighborhood Survey

This Survey was made possible by a Horizon Foundation grant toward identifying “Places in Peril.” Willard was identified as at particular risk. Field time for the survey took 6-8 weeks. Christopher Closs’s visual summary included examples of the many styles of residential buildings, as well as a few commercial buildings, in the Willard Neighborhood. Structures surveyed range from 1725 to 1965. Survey is fundamental to any kind of preservation efforts or ordinances; “Quality information leads to better planning.”

Future surveys are recommended. Grant money may be available to us through the Certified Local Government Program. We are well-positioned to survey additional regions because a corps of trained volunteers is already in place. Possible areas include (but are not limited to) Sylvan Sites, Loveitt’s Field, Meetinghouse Hill, and Ferry Village. Hannah suggests that this project is suitable for interns or graduate students.

Results of surveying could include placing neighborhoods on the National Registry, which can lead to tax credits or reduced premium fees for flood insurance. Hilary explains that the Registry can help property owners protect the value of their investment, as Registered neighborhoods tend to sustain strong value.

Jane suggests that existing Knightville data be entered into the CARMA database. Jessica recommends we examine other municipalities Historic Preservation ordinances (available online – public record).

Outreach & education would promote benefits and reduce misconceptions of the Registry. Methods include the South Portland Historical Society column in the Sentry, a table at Art in the Park, or print material available at the circulation desk at the Library.

**Vision Statement** discussion will be moved to the July agenda.

**Next meeting: July 8, 2015, 8:00am.**