

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ART
Meeting Minutes – February 9, 2016 at 5:30 pm
Courtyard Conference Room

Committee Members:

Dennis Dreher (Co-chair)
Dennis Hatch (Co-chair)
Al Devine
Cynthia Charat
Cal Kenney
Bee Bantug
Julie Imhof - left early
Jill Smith (absent)
Cara Vincent

City/Staff/Council Liaisons:

Mayor Darin Fowler
Councilor Shonna Bouteller
Susan Seereiter (Business Advocate)

Guests:

1. Introductions

- Mayor welcomed new Council Liaison Shonna Bouteller.

2. Review/Approval of Minutes (from January 2016 meeting)

MOTION/VOTE

Committee Member Julie Imhof moved to approve and Committee Member Al Devine seconded the motion to approve the minutes from January 12, 2016 as amended. The vote resulted as follows: “AYES”: Committee Members Devine, Dreher, Hatch, Charat, Kenney, Bantug, Imhof and Vincent. “NAYS”: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Jill Smith. The motion passed.

3. Comments: Chairs, Council Liaison and Staff Liaison

- Dennis H. explained that this is a new section on the Agenda and this time will be used if co-chairs, council liaison or staff liaison have something they need to say.

A. Co-Chair (Dennis D.)

- Dennis D., Dennis H., Susan and Al met with the owner of the Napa building at 5th and H streets. The owner suggested a mural with a historic car theme on the side that faces H Street. He was open to a different concept on the side that faces the Green Lot on I Street. The committee’s part will be to assist with the process. Help him choose art and write contracts.
- While having this meeting, Dennis H. noticed the little grassy area in the middle of the Green Lot and thought this might be an ideal place for the Gold Panner Carving. Bee suggested that the City and committee consider the city branding when deciding on a new location for the piece.
- Mayor Fowler mentioned he is hoping to begin a five-year plan to name a parking lot a year. Dennis D. said that the committee has been assured that parking lots

could still be renamed and committee members hoped that CoPA would be consulted on public art pieces in the future.

- It was suggested the 5th and H subcommittee draft a proposal to name lot and new location for panner sculpture and bring it back to the committee for approval.

MOTION/VOTE

Committee Member Al Devine moved and Committee Member Cal Kenney seconded the motion to ask the City to consider waiting on placing the Gold Panner statue back in previous location in the Purple Lot at Fifth and H streets until the committee has had time to evaluate the future use of that lot. The vote resulted as follows: “AYES”: Committee Members Devine, Dreher, Hatch, Charat, Kenney, Bantug, Imhof and Vincent. “NAYS”: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Smith. The motion passed.

- Susan shared that the owner of the building with the “Owl” mural is going to allow the City to install some lights on top of the building which will reflect onto the mural. What the owner asked for in return is for the mural to be cleaned and sealed. The City is asking CoPA to suggest something to seal the mural and inquired about: 511 Impregnator and SealPro.
- CoPA co-chairs gave a synopsis of their recent presentation to City Council at the Council’s Strategic Planning session. They described the two main projects – the Public Art inventory and Catalog and 5th and H Multi-Use Parking lot proposal.
- Julie has agreed to be a liaison to the Parks Advisory Board and will schedule a meeting with the Active Club.
- Dennis D. suggested it would be useful to have a liaison to Tourism Advisory Committee, Historical Buildings and Sites Committee, Friday Night Live and Art Along the Rogue. It shows members are present and participating, and allows the committee to share ideas on the alleyway project and on 5th and H.
- The mayor shared information from the City Council Strategic Planning session: There are about 85 goals and No. 22 is “Support and development and installation of art pieces in City parking lot each year.”
- Discussion about portable mural projects. Art work is scanned and printed out onto vinyl, similar to a Giclee and murals are made out of that. The committee looked over examples. The process creates work that is durable, resists graffiti; similar material is used for Art in Motion.

B. Council Liaison (Shonna)

- Shonna shared that it’s important to start meshing with Tourism and Branding. Maintain the proper brand for the city. Don’t appear disjointed. Be unique and flowing.
- The Branding Steering Committee is finalizing the branding package. It will be presented at the City Council Workshop and to the public on February 22.
- Shonna added that Branding voted on a tagline – “Heart of the Rogue.” Not only placing Grants Pass as the hub of the Rogue Valley, but also recognizing the heart of our people and how awesome our citizenry is, with volunteerism, etc.
- Cynthia mentioned they could capitalize ART in HeART.
- The committee is still in logo phase. Still needs to be presented to Council.

4. Subcommittee updates

A. Inventory – (Dennis H.)

- Need to set up a meeting time.
- Cynthia will be a resource for the Inventory subcommittee.
- Need to limit number of members to four on a subcommittee so that there is not a quorum.

B. 5th and H – (Dennis D.)

- Dennis D. said this subcommittee has not yet met, but he thinks they should be working on the Firehouse and follow up on sidewalk mosaics (talk to Jill).
- Sidewalk mosaics were placed as part of the 2011 Ford Foundation Grant as a provision that those continue.
- Dennis D. believes the subcommittee's focus should be on portable murals. Need to propose murals in windows. Should have a presentation ready for local businesses. Dennis D. asked Susan to keep CoPA in mind when visiting local businesses.
- Bee mentioned people from the lumber industry are interested in being involved in public art. They are willing to donate plywood for portable art.
- Al, Bee, Dennis D. and Jill are on this subcommittee.
- When subcommittees are started, they need to get together, pick a chairman and pick a name.

5. Cal Kenney: proposal ideas

- No. 1: Mural of the Month. Sent an email to Daily Courier Editor Kevin Widdison with an idea of publishing a photo of a mural in the newspaper each month for 12 months. Kevin replied that over the years they have published many photos of murals as they were in progress and completed and will continue to do so as this definitely qualifies as news, but he will take a pass on the Mural of the Month in the paper. Cynthia suggested Cal contact Curtis Hayden at the Sneak Preview. Cal suggested that he would look into the possibility for a grant from JCCC (Josephine County Cultural Coalition) to cover the cost of running Mural of the Month as a paid feature.
- No. 2: Revive Art Show. Sent an email to former City Manager Laurel Samson wondering what the feasibility is of reviving the City Employee/Committee Member's Art Show. It was held once a year. Laurel said the committee would need buy-in from the City as it takes time/staff. The event was usually held at the Post Office. Need a staff champion to push it. Joanne (Stumpf?) could give an idea of staff time needed for set up. In addition to City employees' art, there also was a children's section and AllCare provided some cash awards.

MOTION/VOTE

Committee Member Cal Kenney moved and Committee Member Bee Bantug seconded the motion to ask the City to revive the City Employee/Committee Member Art Show that was installed at First Friday Art Night, presently called First Friday Live, once a year in October. The vote resulted as follows: "AYES": Committee Members Devine, Dreher, Hatch, Charat, Kenney, Bantug, and Vincent. "NAYS": None. Abstain: None. Absent: Imhof and Smith. The motion passed.

- The mayor said this idea needs to be proposed at an Executive Staff meeting to see which City staff member will be the champion for this event.
- No. 3: Would like to see committee members get involved with the Mayor's Volunteer Recognition Dinner in July. The mayor thanked Cal for the offer and would consider it, but likes the idea of City Staff serving the volunteers at that event.

6. Bee Bantug: LA mural report

- Bee shared a slide show of 131 photos from The Alley Mural Project in a neighborhood in downtown Los Angeles.
- The Project was started by Jason Ostro, owner of Gabba Gallery, which is on a major boulevard in downtown Los Angeles.
- When Jason moved into the neighborhood three years ago, it was filled with garbage and graffiti and they had a problem with transients living in the alleys. Jason went door-to-door to gain permission to use building exteriors as canvases. Everyone was welcoming of the artists. Cost Jason \$15,000 per alley and he was aided by one developer that was across from the gallery. The money was used to buy ladders and high-quality paint.
- The murals are political, spiritual and reflect the thinking of the artist. No restrictions. No theme. No dictation about colors or size. Some are abstract, some are risqué, some are subtle. One wraps around a store and a warehouse. Like walls and fences along alleys, dumpsters are used as canvas and painted with art.
- Bee talked to Jason and he said if the committee wanted to get a project started to inspire local artists, he could do a blitz painting over the weekend with four or five artists. His estimated fee for group would be \$5,000 to do a mural project over a weekend.

7. Other CoPA business – none

Meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting: March 12, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. in the Courtyard Conference Room.

These minutes were prepared by Julie Hall.