

City of Missoula Public Art Committee Minutes

March 21, 2023, 4:00 pm

Members Present: Kathi Olson, Chair, Dennis Lippert, Debra Parker, Mia Hanak, Gwen Jones

Members Absent: Tiana Grise, Danielle Vazquez, Erika Hickey, Mirtha Becerra, James Walter

1. CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Roll Call

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2.1 2.21.23 Minutes

Debra has a few observations about the Feb Minutes: The title of the agenda says "Missoula City Council Meeting" and it should say "Public Art Committee Meeting", Lynn Rehbein is noted as absent administration, there is no public art committee members on the signature line and John Engen (former mayor) needs to be taken off of the signature as well.

Nathan explains that some of these things cannot be changed on his end, like the admin names and signatures because it is auto filled through Escribe once the agenda is published, but he will look into why it was titled "Missoula City Council Meeting" instead of "Missoula Public Art Meeting"

Nathan will contact the city clerk about this issue.

Mia has a comment about 6.2: she would like Nathan to add a line that says announce finalist in the Spring and to capitalize: JEDI Through Public Art.

Debra moves to approve the minutes with these corrections. Dennis seconds the motion. Motion passes.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA

A Missoula resident: Travis Mateer provided public comment for the meeting.

3.1 Skateboarding Space at Beartracks Under Bridge (Special Presentation)

- Charlie Menefee is here to present about the Bear Track Underbridge Skate Spot Concept (all wheeled action sports). He is a transportation planner for the city. They are a federally funded organization

-Charlie talks about the underbridge park: it will be a multi-use park. They did get approval for a skateboarding section in this area. He talks about all of the features skateboarding will bring to the park.

- He continues to talk about a multi-use skateboarding area where there are features for all ability levels, art and sculpture design possibilities and integrated use for things like seating for reading, socializing, etc. This also supports Missoula's growing action sports

community, provides safe spaces for marginalized participants, linearly active space and would bring in visitors.

-Charlie shows the committee a mock up of how this multi-use skateboarding area could look.

- Local Partners: Montana skatepark association, Jeff Ament's Army, Girls on Shred, and Action Sports Community.

- Charlie would like the PAC to help with giving ideas and suggestions about the multi-use art that could be incorporated in this park.

- He opens up questions and comments for the committee:

Mia asks where is the exact location for this park. Charles explains the design is in four separate chunks because of the pillars. It is the space closest to the river.

Kathi asks how can we work together- are you seeing artists help design some of the features at this park? Charlie would like to have a combination of the skateboarding community (there opinions) and local artists. He talks about a multi-use piece of art that people could skate on as well.

Kathi asks where is funding coming from? Charles answers that they have a rough agreement with the M.S.A. board members and they are in the process of creating a presentation plan to bring to Parks and Rec for their involvement.

Mia adds that it would be a good idea to collaborate with an artist and a possible pro skater for this project.

Kathi adds that the PAC can give them an estimate to how much it would cost to incorporate public art in this project.

Kathi would like to put this topic as an item for discussion in next month's PAC meeting.

Charlie will email the presentation and the pdf of the diagram to the committee and appreciates open contact with the PAC.

4. BUDGET UPDATE

No changes on the budget reports this month.

The transfer of the traffic circle project funds will be on next month's budget report.

Kathi adds that Nathan and herself are working on a spreadsheet that will show all of the budgets of projects from previous years so we can get a better idea of our finances.

5. ACTION ITEMS

5.1 Approval of TSB Art Call (April 1st)

Kathi talks about the upcoming Traffic Circle Project art call (will be on our website April 1st). The TSB project is already approved, but we are looking to approve the TSB timeframe: the typical time frame is art calls due in April, the proposals are due June 2nd, then having the preliminary selection committee in the middle of June, finals in July and then implementation at the end of August (close to Roots Festival).

Kathi says so far, there are 4 total TSB projects this year.

Kathi asks the committee to make a motion to approve the presented time frame for the TSB project.

Mia makes a motion to approve the TSB time frame. Debra seconds the motion. Motion passes.

All in favor. Non opposed

5.2 Approval of Signage Purchase (2,710 Points of Light)

The DASH project piece: 2,710 points of light at the Missoula Public Library is needing a sign to explain the narrative of the piece.

A sign for this piece would cost about \$200. The narrative on this signage is being approved by the artist: Mike Lustig.

Kathi asks to make a motion to approve the signage purchase of \$200 for the art piece: 2,710 points of light.

Gwen makes a motion to approve up to \$200 for the signage purchase. Debra seconds the motion. Motion passes.

All in favor. Non opposed.

6. NON-ACTION ITEMS

6.1 R.A.C.E (Cognizant Funding Proposal)

Kathi wants to remind the committee that this is not a Cognizant corporate project, it is a part of the affinity group: R.A.C.E. They have been wanting to install art work on the Cognizant building, collaborating with PAC and using the J.E.D.I. principals. They would like to put the mural on their building.

They opted to select a single artist: Lilian Nelson to create an image that would work with their theme and the employees themselves will be financing this project. They are planning a celebration / dedication event in August.

Kathi has been working with R.A.C.E. for this grant.

6.2 Stormwater Mural Project

Lindsey Holloway from Stormwater sent Kathi a follow up email about PAC's involvement in creating a mural on the south facing flood wall. They would like the working group to get together with them next month possibly and refine this project. They are willing to help with funding for this project.

Debra asks if they want art to span this entire flood-wall? Kathi says she doesn't believe they want the whole wall covered, but there is still discussion about this project.

Nathan will send those who are a part of this working group the information for an upcoming meeting with Stormwater.

6.3 PAC LIVE

Kathi expresses that we need someone from the committee to spearhead the PAC Live project and to raise the money. Kathi is curious what the committee thinks they should do about this project: do we want to do it every First Friday?

Kathi says last year, we did this in May, July, August and September. We didn't do it in June because there was no artist.

Mia says she would like the program to continue. She asks what are the more "well attended" months? Kathi says July, August and September are usually great months for something like this.

Mia asks when would we get the art call out for this? Kathi says we would get the art call out next month if the committee is in favor.

Debra asks are most of the artists musicians? Kathi says we have had a traveling black smith, stilt walker. But yes the majority have been musicians.

Mia suggests since we don't have the funding secure yet, do we want to target to raise \$1,000 and have August and September as months for PAC Live?

Kathi adds that September is when we will have the TSB dedication, we could have a PAC live event nearby this location during the TSB dedication.

There is discussion about the award money. The amount of the award is usually \$500 so it is up to the artist(s) to how they would like to divide this up.

Mia suggests we raise at least \$1,000 for two months (August & September) so that would be a total of \$1,000.

There is discussion about a PAC live performance prior to the River City Roots Festival. Kathi will connect with the city about this possibility.

6.4 Public Art Coordinator Email

Kathi explains how Nathan works for two entities: The City of Missoula Public Art and Arts Missoula. He currently has a work email that ends in artsmissoula.org, but not one that is Missoula public art. Kathi talked to the city about getting the public art coordinator a city email but wasn't able to do this.

Nathan has researched what it would cost to add on an email to our website domain. He explains it would be an extra \$160.00 a year for this. Kathi is wondering what the committee thinks of this and if it is a good use of our budget.

Gwen isn't sure why the city is saying no to this request. She asks how many email's is Nathan sending on average in regards to the Public Art Committee? Kathi answers that Nathan and herself email all the time. Gwen asks if Kathi has a city email. Kathi answers no she does not.

Gwen will look into this to get a coordinator and possibly a PAC chair email.

6.5 Bloomberg Grant Opportunity

Mia informs the committee that the Bloomberg Grant says "in progress" online currently. Once we hear anything, Mia and Kathi will inform the committee.

6.6 Indigenous Mural Project

Gwen doesn't have a big update about this project, but Mirtha has been in communication with Donna and the Parks department but there is not a specific update.

The committee asks that we get the budget costs and info about the artist so they could be in line with the time frame for Phase 1.

Mia says it would be helpful to get info about the artist, a picture of the wall, info about the poet and a rendering so they could get the money secured for this project.

6.7 Traffic Circle Project (Hollis & Livingston / Bike Month: May in Motion)

James will update the committee on this project since he has discussed this with the neighborhood committee.

6.8 Traffic Signal Box Project

6.9 Missoula Sculpture Park

Kathi says we are taking some steps back on this project. We are now going to talk to all of the neighborhoods that would surround this park and get their opinion on how it will impact them.

Kathi expresses that we want to be sensitive to these communities and make sure we are taking the proper steps. People in the neighborhoods thought we were further in this process and that the decision had been made without the neighborhood's input. Kathi explains this is not the case, so we are going to talk to all 3 neighborhoods and get their input and explain the project in depth.

Kathi says the implementation of art in this park could create traffic in these neighborhoods in terms of parking so we want to be sensitive to these issues.

Mia asks would these be 3 separate meetings with the neighborhoods? Kathi answers yes it would be and the committee is welcome to participate in these meetings.

Gwen asks how much traffic / parking issues could a sculpture park create especially after the initial months. Kathi explains that the plan for this park is to have a few changing/ temporary pieces in the park which could create issues, the paths in the park have to be widened, etc.

Chuck would like to create a Sculpture park board to work alongside with the Public Art Committee.

Kathi says we will keep you posted on this project.

6.10 Public Art Planning in Public Spaces

Kathi says in conversations with Donna, they have discussed what places are most appropriate to have public art and how could we help Parks and Recreation assist them in these projects. What are the constraints that the city may have when implementing these public art pieces in public spaces.

Mia asks what would be the next steps.

Kathi answers that she is looking for other parks to be a part of this project and possible funding sources. This would be in collaboration with Parks and Recreation.

Mia says she would like to be a part of this project and suggests we start taking the next steps for funding.

6.11 Environmental Art

Mia says she wants to start identifying the sites for installations.

Burning Man sculpture- we have the opportunity to bring it back. We are working with the Washoe Tribe but it could be re-programmed to work with local Native American Tribes (Salish Kootenai Tribe). This is a potential idea.

Kathi says she and Mia will get together to discuss the budget and potential site on this and then present it to the committee.

6.12 "We Are But One Thread" Lillian Nelson - Cleaning

Kathi says we have volunteers (Berkshire agents) that will help clean the art piece: "We Are But One Thread". Lillian Nelson and her husband have been allocated \$300 from the PAC to clean this piece. They will let Kathi know when they would like to do this cleaning.

Debra asks if we show up for this, could we help out? Kathi says absolutely.

Kathi says she will let everyone know the date of the cleaning once it is confirmed.

6.13 Annual Meeting Review

Kathi says they have added R.A.C.E Mural Project and Stormwater Mural project to the strategic planning/ goals document.

7. Tabled Projects

7.1 Branding

Mia talks about how the Instagram button isn't working on the PAC website. Nathan will look into this. Mia also notes that the facebook and instagram handles are not the same. Nathan explains that the handle @publicartmissoula is already in use by another profile so he cannot change it to this. Nathan will continue to research options to have matching handles on social media.

Mia would like "Branding" to be put on Non action items for next month.

7.2 Rattlesnake Neighborhood

7.3 Audio Interpretation Project

7.4 Project Procedures

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS OR UPCOMING EVENTS

9. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Adjourned - 6:08 PM