

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ART
Meeting Minutes – June 20, 2023 at 5:30 pm
Ridge Conference Room

Committee Members:

Cal Kenney (Chair)
Joan Marie Robertson-Geisler
Judy Basker
Diane Dahlgren (Vice Chair)
Michael Holzinger – By Teams
Robyn Forbes
Sulaiha McDougall - **Late**
Deanna Morse
Rebecca (Becky) Shane

City/Staff/Council Liaisons:

James Conway (Staff Liaison)
Vanessa Ogier (City Council) -By Teams

Guests:

Ward Warren – HBSC Chair
Alice Jones – Visit Grants Pass

1. **Roll Call:** Chair Kenney called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
2. **Introductions:**
3. **Public Comment:** Ward Warren (HBSC Chair) introduced himself and stated that he was here because he saw that the mural was on the agenda, and we had a meeting last Thursday. He said that he wants to stay on top of this, so hopefully we can work together for a positive outcome. He continued that we love having art downtown. He said it was a little confusing the way it was presented to HBSC. He wants us to work together to make it happen.
 - Member Robertson-Geisler gave an introduction to the committee on her background and passion of art.
 - Each individual committee member shared about themselves to introduce themselves to the newest member of CoPA, Member Robertson-Geisler.
4. **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes for May 9, 2023.

MOTION/VOTE

Member Morse moved, and Member Holzinger seconded the motion to approve the minutes from May 9, 2023. The vote resulted as follows: “AYES”: Chair Kenney, Members Holzinger, Basker, Forbes, Morse, and Shane. “NAYS”: None. Abstain: Vice Chair Dahlgren and Member Robertson-Geisler. Absent: Member McDougall.
The motion passed.

5. **Action Items:**
 - **Public Art of the Month:**
 - Chair Kenney passed around the Public Art of the Month (June). He said that we did the door at Tap Rock and wanted to do something different. The committee was very impressed. Chair Kenney said next month for July, we will do “Welcome to Grants Pass” mural.
 - Chair Kenney summarized other public art pieces that are available to continue the Public Art of the Month publication for next year (FY2024).
 - **Project: Visit Grants Pass/Travel Oregon Sidewalk/Crosswalk Art**
 - Staff Liaison Conway gave a summary of Travel Oregon/Visit Grants Pass art project. He mentioned that it is a series designed to promote downtown and get people excited about coming downtown. He continued that sidewalk and crosswalk art is designed to be combined with First Friday Alive at Five.
 - **Minute 45 on audio continued by Alice from Visit Grants Pass.**

- Alice said the plan is to have 6 pieces in total, two cross walks on G Street and four pieces at the intersection of 5th and H streets. She said it is a collaborative process and is forming a steering committee.
- Alice asked Staff Liaison Conway if it should be CoPA driven, and he clarified that it is a Visit Grants Pass project and any collaboration between them, and the city is great.
- Alice said the property owners of the Horny Goat and NAPA are very interested in the project.
- Ward Warren stated that HBSC was very receptive to the project and mentioned that there will be a collaborative steering committee involved.
- Member Morse asked if Visit Grants Pass will do a public call to artists. Alice said that Visit Grants Pass is figuring that out. Alice said that they want it to be an event program as well as an art program.
- Ward Warren clarified for the group where the funding is coming from and stated that it is coming from Travel Oregon and is a grant given to Visit Grants Pass.
- Member Holzinger asked Conway how he felt about having Art Along the Rogue “split in half?” Conway responded that he would like to have a conversation with Visit Grants Pass on this subject. He said he has a slight concern about the overall project taking away from the chalk.
- **Art Box Discussion:**
 - Staff Liaison Conway informed the committee that the Four Way Community Foundation decided to fund the project with \$1,500.00. He came up with a “breakdown” of what funding will come out of the unrestricted art fund. If CoPA decides to fund 5 boxes it would be, \$2,600.00, if 4 then \$2,100.00. If CoPA funds 3 than the cost would be \$1,200.00 dollars. He stated that all the boxes are the pole mounted “small” boxes.
 - Staff Liaison Conway clarified the funding possibilities on this project and mentioned that the “unrestricted public art fund” should be spent down to zero since it’s been building since 2011.
 - Vice Chair Dahlgren asked Conway to give a breakdown off the costs on the art boxes. Conway gave the committee a breakdown on 5 boxes, 4 boxes and 3 boxes. Vice Chair Dahlgren suggested to spend the money down.

MOTION/VOTE

Vice Chair Dahlgren moved, and Member Shane seconded the motion to fund all 5 boxes and not ask the city for more funding and fund with the remaining amount (\$2,600) of the unrestricted public art fund. The vote resulted as follows: “AYES”: Chair Kenney, Vice Chair Dahlgren, Members Holzinger, Basker, Forbes, Morse, Robertson-Geisler, and Shane. **“NAYS”:** None. **Abstain** None. **Absent:** None. **The motion passed.**

- **Discussion: HBSC meeting and findings for alley beautification project.**
- Chair Kenney asked Conway if this is the updated proposal from the artist. Conway said yes and clarified that the artist knows about the approved color pallet. Member Shane asked if the project can be moved. Conway clarified that the funding is allocated to the Central Business District.

- Vice Chair Dahlgren stated that CoPA should talk about what happened at the HBSC meeting. Member Shane agreed. She continued to say that her understanding is that the HBSC totally nixed the idea because of the “whimsical” nature.
- Ward Warren clarified that the HBSC is a commission not a committee and explained to the committee that the development code requires HBSC review. He said that no other HBSC member had seen the artwork except for himself.
- Chair Kenney said that we can move it to another alley, we can “shine on” the whole project or we can do (modify the current proposal) so the HBSC will approve the mural. He said that it is CoPA’s job to approve the artists and proposal, we had 5 artists submit proposals. CoPA decides one approved proposal and sends it to the HBSC.
- Ward Warren said that Chair Kenney and himself had a conversation and if it is in the historic district, it does need to blend in with the historic nature of the district and “we” should have collaborated a long time ago. He continued that he had a discussion with Chair Kenney at Fred Meyer about three weeks ago and he told Chair Kenney that you and I, and a couple members of the commission and CoPA should get together and talk about this before it comes to the commission, it did not happen. Ward invited everyone on the committee to listen to the recording (of the HBSC meeting) and said that staff did not prepare the HBSC or give any background at the meeting.
- Ward stated that HBSC is not against whimsical, and that the application said at the top of the RFP “Beaver Alley.”
- Member Morse said that this project came out of the “Blue Zone Project” and that City Council included this in their top 10 priorities to fund in 2019 and 2020. She continued by saying that this alley is a “journey” and a “through space.”
- Ward clarified that nobody on the commission is against dogs, they did not even have the artwork (at the HBSC meeting). The problem is that the city should have had someone from the commission attend the CoPA meeting and talk with CoPA and ask them what they are looking for. He said that dogs are not off limits, but if it looks like a “modern Hallmark Card” then that does not work.
- Ward suggested that maybe you put the dogs in vintage clothing, then you are staying somewhat in character within in the historic district.
- Council Liaison Ogier said that there is precedence of copy moving these projects and cited the “osprey alley.”
- Member McDougall said that CoPA does not report to the HBSC and that they make recommendations to City Council, however, there has been this understanding that the committee and commission should communicate. She recognized the rules for the historic district like the color palette.
- Member Morse stated (in terms of the Call for Artists), that it’s based on protocols and different art. She continued by saying that CoPA was going to work with the artist and stakeholders (building owners) to facilitate things.
- Chair Kenney said that we can compromise (regarding this project and rendering). Alice Jones from Visit Grants Pass asked how the building owner was looped in on the project. Conway clarified the process and background on how the building owner was included in the process. Ward said that this should be collaboration and that the City Council would like to see increased communication and collaboration between committees.

- Vice Chair Dahlgren said collaboration is working on something together and decide together. Ward Warren said that 90% of the time the HBSC says yes to things that come before them because they are business oriented, and they are about being fair and equitable and making sure everyone downtown and tourists are happy and maintaining character. He suggested that there should be informal communication between the two groups to move forward in a positive and productive manner.

6. Mattes from Committee Members and Staff

Member McDougall final remarks:

- **Member McDougall resigned officially.** She left words of advice and encourage. She stated that we should keep the peace and goodwill. She continued to say that CoPA makes recommendations and does not have a budget. She suggested that the committee should maintain a calendar of events to keep projects moving forward.
- Member McDougall stated that emails should be kept under quorum numbers (to respect Oregon Public Meeting Laws).
- Note: Member McDougall had served 3 appointments for the Committee on Public Art (CoPA).
- Member McDougall stressed to CoPA about goal setting and building trust with the City Council. CoPA thanked her for her service.
- Alice Jones stated with a final thought, she thinks its wonderful that CoPA has so much dedication and care for the community.

7. Future Agenda Building for Next Meeting

8. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Next meeting date: July 11, 2023, at 5:30 pm in the Ridge Conference Room.

Minutes prepared by James Conway, City Staff Liaison.