

Montpelier Public Art Commission – Meeting Minutes

Date: April 30, 2025 4:00 – 5:15 pm

Meeting in City Hall Manager Conference Room & via Zoom link below

In attendance: Ward Joyce (Chair) Bob Hannum, Rob Hitzig, Judith Ehlich, Eliot Burg, Megan

Riley (guest intending to join) Josh Jerome via zoom

Opening Process:

1. Call to order art 4:05:
2. Review and approve this meeting's Agenda. Approved Unanimously
3. Approve minutes 9/3/24. Approved Unanimously
4. Opportunity for "**Community Comment**" – none
5. Introductions by all for Elliot and Megan.
6. Rob brought up that the Commission needs a new chair, as Ward Joyce has been the Chair for 3 years – too long.
7. Josh informed us that we have a about \$17,000 in resources available. Also he is leaving the city in a week.

Project for review:

1. **Signage program:** discussion: we need a sign for the Clothespins piece at least. Bob suggests we not so all the pieces around town and spend most of our available money, but rather, budget the process so we can do still do new projects. We need to talk to Jody who had worked hard on signage to get an update on the goal to do many of them. Judith suggested making a policy of getting signage done at completion of, and as part of any commission. Eliot suggested artist identifying themselves on their works.
2. **Condition of existing Art:** Bob Hannum inspected all art in town and offered these priorities for us to focus on:
 - Eliot's tryptic on the former Onion River Sports is too worn. "If it looks bad, it's a bad statement". Eliot offered that for \$300 in material cost it could be replaced. Ward offered that he is done doing installations 30' off the ground. We tabled this piece and will entertain permanency options or removal later.
 - Vines lights need replacement @ \$300. A motion was made by Ward to allocate a \$300 budget to do this maintenance. The motion was seconded by Rob and unanimous approved. Bob and Rob will head this up.

- Bike sculptures are aged and falling apart. Step one is that Rob will try and find the artists to see if they want them, otherwise we should have them removed at \$1,200.
 - Tumbling Blocks by Sabina is falling apart, but she will replace that piece on her own,.
 - The Hanes Memorial at MRHS is looking bad, and Bob will reach out to the school to see if they will repair it.
 - Schuman piece up high and the painting over the North Branch are beginning to get aged and we should pull them down soon – tabled.
 - The lower wall wheat paste **Schuman works** on the side of Ramble Rouser look bad, but they are not our work/responsibility. We may need to talk to the building owner, but tabled.
3. We discussed a **Public Art Map** with addresses of all our pieces and Megan Riley voiced an interest in looking at this project, maybe in collaboration with M.A.
 4. Eliot asked if we have a **catalogue of available buildings** for art, and maybe he wants to help amass this.
 5. **New Shaws Mural:** on river side of building, Montpelier Alive offered to kick this off. Ward proposed using our existing design submissions to select the next artist. Bob disagreed suggesting a new ecology/river theme. Eliot suggested a theme of “welcoming of everyone” and we all agreed this was a great theme that could also be done elsewhere in the city on another project
 6. **Lighting the Bridges:** Montpelier Alive’s project and our ongoing collaboration and/or support. We discussed their offer to engage us on the design for lighting the pedestrian bridge at the Guertin Pocket park site.
 7. **Gateway Mural Project:** Caroline Shapiro would like to help keep it going. Bob would like to continue. Bob made a motion to spend up to \$2500 to commission at least one more mural, rob seconded and it was approved unanimously. Ward will try to shepherd the project
 8. We received a request to restore mural behind Walgreens, and Megan will investigate whether that wasn’t done by Dashka at BRD. Perhaps we take that on.

Closing Process:

1. Next Meeting time: Thurs. 22nd of May at 4 p.m.

2. Meeting adjourned at 5:15