

Montpelier Public Art Commission – Meeting Minutes

Meeting on 2/18/26

In attendance: Ward, Rob, Elliot, Megan, Jesse, Matthew

Opening Process:

1. Call to order: **Done at 3:35**
2. Review and approve this meeting's Agenda
3. Approve minutes for last meeting: **4/30/25 Rob Moved to approve, Elliot seconded, vote to approve was unanimous**
4. Opportunity for "**Community Comment**" **A series of comments were submitted by John Snell for discussion. His questions and our notes are at the end of these Minutes.**

Projects for review:

1. **Signage program:** The sign for the Clothespins piece is **Done**
Jesse Jacobs would like to do two for his buildings that got murals last year.
Elliot: Isn't the artist's name on a piece enough?
Rob: Explained that this is not the case because some pieces absolutely need explanation as well as artist I.D. For example, the Transit Center mural last year had essential cultural information on the signage
 - Judith suggested getting signage done as part of any commission.
Ward: suggested that the commission should detail the signage needed for every future piece and get it done along with the arrival of each new piece.
Jesse Jacobs will talk to Katie Troutz about signage for both MPAC and Mplr.
Alive being done together/in the same way.
Motion by Rob: "earmark \$1,000 to do a series of signs for existing artworks"
Seconded by Ward, Approved unanimously

Megan to reach out to Katie to talk about unifying or creating the digital walking tour of bridges and art as a shared project. Matthew will address this with Katie at their regular meeting.

 - Eliot suggested artist identifying themselves.
2. **Condition of existing Art:**
 - Eliot's tryptic is too worn. If it looks bad, \$300 for materials. Shall we entertain permanent. He is willing to donate new images, but hanging is a challenge.
See notes on John's comments below that addresses this project.

- Plowed snow threatens to damage the Clothes Pin Sculpture. **Note sent to Public Works on this concern**
- Vines lights have been identified by a patron as worthy of sponsorship. Is Rob willing to install/repair new? We voted unanimously to spend up to \$300 on 4/30/25 to repair this.
Ward to look at better lighting (S4 Lights) for costs. Matthew to get an assessment of timing and cost parameters from Montpelier Alive
- Bike sculptures removed at a \$1,200 cost – **We decided to reassess their condition in the spring**
- Tumbling Blocks by Sabina. She will replace that piece? **Not our project**
- The Hanes Memorial at MRHS is looking bad, and Bob will reach out to the school to see if they will repair it.
- Schuman pieces on Ramble Rouser need removal, or not? **We are not overly concerned about the weathered condition of the wheat paste pieces below, though this may change as they get worse. They were not approved by us and are temporary and on a private building**

3. **New Art Priorities**

- **Drawing Board building** is our highest visibility location
- Empty lot next to **Drawing Board**
Rob says high school art teacher, Flanny, will do again with her students
Motion by Rob. “for MPAC to approve up to \$650 for materials to the MRPH to do the project again this spring” 2nd by Megan.
Voted: Unanimously
- Empty storefront windows **Elliot and Jesse to push this forward, talking to John Snell who also intends a similar project**
- Prioritize images of displaced people. **Elliot proposed, and we discussed. But no decision made as we typically do not establish themes.**
- **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 – for discussion. Bob suggested an ecology/river theme. Eliot suggested a theme of welcoming of everyone and/or elsewhere in the city as a theme. **Not addressed**
- **Gateway Mural Project:** Caroline Shapiro would like to help keep it going. \$2,500 was approved by MPAC at last meeting. Ward to shepherd **Not addressed**

4. **Lighting the Bridges:** Montpelier Alive's project and our ongoing collaboration and/or support **Not addressed**
5. **Request to restore mural behind Walgreens,** we've received a request to restore it. **Not addressed**
6. **Deaccession** of pieces that **are aged:** Berg banner, Schuman works **R.F.P. proposed**
7. **Public Art Map and registry on line.** Map by Megan, will talk to Katie at M.A
8. **Catalogue of available buildings** for public art placement opportunities. **Elliot to look into this**
9. **Elections** of new Chair and Treasurer. **Postponed as no one wanted to step up yet.**

Closing Process:

1. Next Meeting time: **To be done via email. We will try and establish a regular meeting time**
2. Adjourn: **adjourned at 4:50**

Comments submitted by John Snell for MPAC Meeting 2/18/26

• I agree the rapidly degrading piece of art on the wall of the former Onion River Sports should be replaced. As I remember from helping install it, the task, though challenging, should be straightforward. I only ask that the selection of the new artwork be done in a public, vetted process. For one, I'd love to have a chance to have the Commission consider this piece, a compilation of work we did at the same time:

Comments: longevity, two years? Elliot

Ward & Elliot will to develop an r.f.p. based on our last R.F.P. for murals printed on Tyvek, and plan to reutilize that frame on the former Onion River Outdoors façade off Langdon Street. It will be a public R.F.P. We will also consider doing the other two frames at the same time: over the North Branch at the Café; and on Rabble Rouser facing Charlie O's. Simply stapling new banners up over the existing pieces should work, but a cap should be installed over the top to prevent water getting behind the piece, which is easy.

• I emailed Dan Perry about the snow being piled on the clothespin sculpture on 12/23 and he said he would speak with James about it; clearly the message did not get through. Pair this up with complaints on FPF that the adjacent handicap parking space is not being well cleared and it seems like DPW needs to find another solution for snow in both areas. **Ward reached out to Public Works asking for their collaboration in preserving this piece by not plowing snow against it. At this point, Ward has not heard back from Kurt, the director.**

- Regarding removal of the “bike sculptures” (one Stonecutters Way?) I’d love to see that \$1200 put to reviving them in some way. I always enjoyed them

Rob will try again to find the artist of those/those pieces. The Commission is open to keeping the pieces in place if they can be restored or altered in a way that makes them whole, and we propose to look at them together in the spring to assess this approach.

- I totally support keeping the vine lights in good condition! Planning to do so.

Ward is going to look into better lights so they last longer than the Christmas lights used the last two times.

- FYI, a group of us meeting with Friends of the Winooski about the rivers in the city hope to utilize some of the vacant windows for educational displays for the month of June, if they are still available.

As our commission had also discussed commissioning work for empty storefronts, Elliot and Jesse proposed to investigate the way to get permission from building owners, and to consider an R.F.P. to get this project going. And they should reach out to John Snell to ensure that the two projects are integrated.