

Montpelier Public Art Commission – Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday June 10, 3:30 – 4:45 pm

Meeting in City Hall Manager Conference Room & via Zoom

Action items are shown in italics.

In Attendance: *Megan Riley, Ward Joyce, Matthew Jelacic, Elliot Burg, Rob Hitzig, Jesse Jacobs (on Zoom), and members of the public Jenni Bee and Christopher Therrien (on Zoom).*

Opening Process

1. Call to order.
2. Approve the meeting agenda. *Moved by Rob, Megan 2nd, unanimous approval.*
3. Approve minutes of 4/42/26 meeting. *Moved by Rob, Elliot 2nd, unanimous approval.*
4. Opportunity for Community Comment. Christopher Therrien was concerned over the lack of visibility of a future mural on the river side of Shaw's; Ward agreed, saying that that site had been discussed but is not a prime location. Mr. Therrien suggested that the side of the Drawing Board building might be better; Matt noted that that location might be blocked by a future building.
5. MPAC membership and rules were discussed. Matt said that the existing rules need to be rewritten, as some prescribed members (e.g., the VCFA and Montpelier Development Corp.) no longer exist and Montpelier Alive has not been attending our meetings; and many current members are not eligible to be on MPAC because they cannot vote in the city (although Ward and Elliot have been approved by the Council). *Ward agreed to draft a new set of rules for City Council consideration that would strike the list of "categorical" members, the residency/voting requirement, and the term limits, but retain Council approval of new members. In the meantime, we will continue our work.*

Projects for review

- **Signage program:** Megan dropped off samples of signage for the Shippee mural and is waiting for their approval, including on size (16"x12"). *Megan will work up a consistent prototype, and Jesse will report back on signs for other installations.* (The agenda noted that we have approved \$1,000 for new signs, including the two murals by LMNOPI (Jesse), the high school panels (Rob), Lochlin and Ward's piece over the river (Ward), the Flags over the River (Rob)—all to be mounted by MPAC.) The designer is Dana Yardley in Montpelier, and the signs are made in Burlington.

- **High school panels:** Rob reported that the panels next to The Drawing Board will be done by the next day; *Ward agreed to help install them over the weekend of June 20-21.*
- **Langdon street banner:** *Megan will finish redrafting the RFP for the banner on Langdon Street, incorporating everyone's comments (no substantive theme, focus on artistic merit, a \$500 stipend, and information on how to submit proposals within 30 days); she will email that to everyone, with comments to be sent to her, and also draft a notice to be posted on the city website, with the Arts Council and Montpelier Alive, and as a press release for the Times-Argus, with a proposed installation in the fall. In the meantime, Ward volunteered to take down the old banner with help from Rob. Matt said the city fire department can provide a lift to install the new banner. Rob will speak with the owner of the Langdon Street building to get his consent.*
- **Vines lights:** Ward ordered lights from S4 Lights and is continuing to work on this project.
- **Funding and related issues:** There was a discussion about getting approval to spend funds. For maintenance of existing art (like replacing the deteriorated Langdon Street banner), it appears that no City Council approval is needed. But clarity would be helpful on whether, and at what dollar level, small-scale projects (e.g., above \$600) approval is required. Jesse said that in the past, multiple projects have been City Council and City Manager would be a good idea. In the meantime, *Rob will circulate a pdf version of our Master Plan. Matt will send us the Commission rules, including on funding.*
- **Bike sculptures:** Ward thinks these are in reasonable condition. Megan recommended they be cleaned up a little, and *Ward offered to buff them.*
- **"New Americans" mural:** Elliot has proposed a large wall mural reflecting the theme of welcoming New Americans to Montpelier. He recently circulated photos of potential sites in the city. Jesse noted that if the building is privately owned, only the owner's consent is needed. A straw poll was taken on the concept, and everyone thought it was a good idea. *Elliot and Jesse agreed to meet to discuss sites, size and cost (including the potential for matching funds) and report back to MPAC. Elliot will also check with Montpelier Alive on potential city-owned sites. Ward offered to help with an RFP.*
- **Bill Kaplan "parking arrow" mural:** No news.
- **Shaw's riverside mural:** No news.
- **Gateway mural:** No news.
- **Request to restore mural behind Walgreens:** Not active.
- **Proposal to hold a public visioning meeting:** There seemed to be support for doing this in the fall, but we need to discuss the idea in more detail.
- **Public art map and registry on line:** Megan is working on this. She said that for \$600 annually we can have a 12-stop uploadable map developed by Balado Discovery. Rob moved that we go ahead with this; Jesse 2nd; the motion passed unanimously. *Megan will post a SurveyMonkey poll for the first six pieces to add to the map.*

- **Catalogue of available buildings:** *Ward will circulate the catalog of public buildings in Montpelier.*
- **Elections:** Elliot was elected chair of the Commission for one year. Ward will take minutes at future meetings. Election of a treasurer will await review of the funding rules.
- **Other business:** Jenni will have a proposal for a public art piece to bring to the next meeting, to see if an RFP should issue.

Closing Process

1. **Next meeting:** Wednesday, July 15, 3:30-4:45, in the City Hall Manager Conference Room & via Zoom.
2. **Meeting adjourned:** At 4:50.