

Salem Public Art Commission Meeting

November 17, 2015

The Public Art Commission (PAC) was held on Tuesday, November 17, 2015, in Room Third Floor, at 120 Washington Street, Salem, MA

Norene Gachignard, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:04pm.

Roll Call:

Members Present: Norene Gachignard, J. Michael Sullivan, Ellen Hardy, Claudia Paraschiv, Victor Miguel Cruz (arrived at 7pm) and Deborah Greel, Public Art Planner

Absent: Juliette Fritsch, Lillian Hsu

Approval of October Minutes:

Paraschiv made a motion to approve the minutes. Gachignard seconded the motion.

Motion passes: 3 - 1 abstention

Discussion on developing a Public Art Work Plan for FY 2016:

Documents and Exhibitions: Salem Public Art Commission Work plan 2014/2015, Public Art Masterplan, Salem Artists' Row Framework Plan, Artists' Row Tenant Survey

Discussion: Paraschiv asked about the opportunity of applying for grants for public art. Greel noted that the Planning Dept. was successful in securing a grant for the painted crosswalks. She also noted that she will research grant opportunities but cautioned that not all applied for grants are awarded.

Hardy reminded the PAC that when Councilor O'Keefe attended a meeting last year he suggested that PAC ask for more money in the budget.

The first initiative of the work plan is the Artbox program and Greel said that she has sought sponsorships for five boxes with a potential for a sixth box. The program will be administered and juried by the PAC as in the previous year. Hardy noted that the program, although sponsored this coming year, should not set a precedent for how the program is funded so that others who wish to have an Artbox in their neighborhood will have the opportunity to have one. Paraschiv suggested adding to the Artbox website about sponsorships opportunities.

The initiative for Artists' Row requires that the PAC review the "Call for Creative Entrepreneurs". Sullivan asked if the tenants are required to have set hours. Greel noted that the "Call for Creative Entrepreneurs" requires specific hours but the tenants have the option to be open longer hours. Hardy said that in her experience as a former tenant on the Row that the busiest times are Thursday through Sunday, Monday is good and Tuesday and Wednesday are dead. Based on the tenant survey, Greel suggested that Tuesday be closed instead of Monday. She also said that the opening times can change to open later in the morning and stay open later in the evening. Greel will edit the call to reflect these changes.

The Salem Artists' Row Framework Plan prepared by the Cecil Group was discussed and the following recommendations made that will be included in the work plan.

Urban Design:

- Removal of the bathroom stall
- Lighting
- Landscaping
- Wayfinding Signage

Tenants

- Establish rent for the season.
- Make improvements to the stalls

Programming:

- Funding for programming in Artists' Row and Derby Square

The Public Art Commission will also ask the City to set up a fund for Public Art. The fund will be able to take donations and funds from private development projects.

Public Comments:

There were no public comments.

Adjournment:

Paraschiv made a motion to adjourn. Cruz seconded the motion.

Motion passes: 5-0

Meeting adjourned at 7:42