



**Helena Public Art Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2015
Room, City-County Bldg.**

Members Present:

- Johnny Moore, Chair
- Carol Montgomery, Vice Chair
- Jim Gilman
- Bobi Harris
- Shawn White Wolf
- Bart Campbell
- Susan Raucy Steffens

Guests:

- Sharon Haugen, Community Development Director
- Judy Garrity, Helena Citizens Council Coordinator

Call to Order/General Business

- The meeting was called to order at 3:30 PM

Introductions

- Bart Campbell was introduced as a new member. He received an Art History degree from Harvard University and a Law Degree from Gonzaga University. He has acted as an attorney for the Montana Legislature for the past 25 years.
- Sharon Haugen introduced Judy Garrity who will provide staff support to the HPAC. Sharon mentioned that if the HPAC requires additional support, the Chair should contact Debbie Havens, Clerk of the Commission.
- Carol Montgomery has a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Montana and a Master of Fine Arts degree from the San Francisco Fine Arts Institute. She is now semi-retired and doing other projects.
- Susan Raucy Steffens has retired and now works on Chef's tours.
- Bobi Harris is a citizen at large. She works at the Historical Society.
- Jim Gilman has spent 30 years in water rights. He is now a part-time consultant and part-time potter.

- Shawn White Wolf works for the United Indian Association to assist students. He attended Vanderbilt in Nashville.
- John Moore is retired. He acted as Training Director for the State of Montana prior to his retirement.

Cienna has a job offer from an architectural firm in Oklahoma City. She will be sending a letter of resignation to the City Clerk's Office.

January Meeting Minutes

John Moore motioned to approve the January meeting minutes. The motion passed.

Parking Meter Project

The City has donated five parking meters to be painted as public art. The meters will be installed at various locations around town during the spring.

A question was raised about liability. John mentioned that sensible installation goes a long way to avoid liability.

Art Questionnaire

Kathy Macefield suggested a Survey Monkey format for the questionnaire. She will be going to Yellowstone Park and will work on the questionnaire while she is there.

Next month, the objective is to create posters, a website, and a Face Book page. Send emails to the email list.

Sharon Haugen asked that website information be sent to her. John Moore suggested that someone talk to Kathy so that she can coordinate the website with Sharon.

John set a March 12 deadline for the Survey Monkey results. And, he mentioned that a volunteer is needed to design the poster. Allegra printing will provide 50 free posters. In return, they will print their logo on the posters. The poster will promote interest in the survey. Survey Monkey is the next step.

Sharon mentioned that people usually send out a link regarding the survey. Hard copies will also be available.

The group agreed to email back and forth regarding information to place on the poster as well as two or three public art pictures on the poster.

Sharon also mentioned that the purpose of a survey is to gauge awareness of public art in the community.

Other ideas included:

- Sending information to Montana Cultural Treasures.

- Creating a definition of public art (e.g. photos/ paintings/ performing arts).
- Gauge awareness of public art in the community.
- An Economic Impact Survey (fund-raising would be necessary).
- Someone on the HPAC act as a liaison to the Independent Record.
- Survey Monkey—have you seen these pictures?
- Reminders that Helena is considered one of 100 great small town art places in America.
- How to make Helena more attractive via art.
- Public Art does not cost to walk by.
- Notice the visual art on private buildings.

The purpose of a survey is to raise public awareness so we can determine future projects.

Shawn White Wolf mentioned that “If people take ownership, they are more invested.”

John suggested a press release for the Independent Record. The group agreed to email back and forth to agree on content prior to the February 25th deadline.

The survey deadline is May 1.

Another suggestion was to work with the Independent Record to publish articles about public art. The HPAC could identify pieces of public art and let readers know the story behind the art work and why it is important.

Another idea was to place yellow signs around town that call attention to various pieces of public art.

The group agreed to send rough drafts to Carol and she will reply.

The question was raised about extending the survey to Memorial Day. That gives the HPAC members all of April and May.

A suggestion was made regarding an Economic Study as well as an Impact study to determine the economic impact of art in the community.

Application for the Economic Impact Study is due by September 3, 2015. If the contract is awarded, three separate 12-month payments could be made in 2015, 2016, and 2017. The role of HPAC is to inform the community that the arts have impact. HPAC is happy to work with groups on these endeavors.

Centennial Park is a partnership between the HPAC and City Parks. The Centennial Park Project has some money left over. The 6th Ward Park is under way. Let Amy Teegarden know we are here.

Sharon Haugen mentioned that most of those moneys have already been allocated.

John mentioned that the HPAC is no longer doing Open Studios, only Chalk Up.

A suggestion was made to find out exactly how much money remains in the HPAC fund. \$1,000 shows up as expenditures from the general fund. Another \$1,000 was spent for open studios.

It was mentioned that the Spring Art Walk is scheduled for May 15 and the HPAC usually has a booth. Bobi and Shawn volunteered to help. Shawn volunteered to go to the Historic Society.

Helen Sauter contacted Carol regarding the cost of an ad in the IR. The amount has increased to \$70 (about \$4 or \$5 more than last year).

The Child and Family Resource Fair is usually held at the Fairgrounds. The HPAC can do a chalk up exercise with the kids. Posters could give preliminary information.

Chalk UP is scheduled for Saturday, the 18th of July at the 4H Building. This is the same date for Symphony under the Stars.

Shawn asked about whether the Helena Citizens Council budget could move some of its money to the HPAC.

Sharon Haugen mentioned that nothing can be done during this fiscal year. She suggested that the HPAC create a more concrete plan. Then, perhaps the Helena Citizens Council could provide outreach.

Carol mentioned that the mural on the walking mall has been vandalized. She requested funds for mural sealant.

Public Comment: None

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM