

**Helena Public Art Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes, 9 June 2011**  
**Room 426, City-County Building**  
**Helena, MT**

The following HPAC Members were present: Vivian Hayes, Carol Swanson, Karen Sturm, Russ Cargo and Kathy Macefield.

Guests: Lance Foster, Artist, and Lora Behlmer, Vice Chair, Helena Citizens' Council.

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:30PM.
2. The minutes were taken by Russ Cargo.
3. Minutes of the April 14<sup>th</sup> and May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011 meetings were read and approved. The motion for approval was by Carol Swanson and seconded by Karen Sturm.
4. Trolley Block Murals: Artist Lance Foster gave a report on the Trolley Block Murals and the most recent design samples were distributed to HPAC members. He described the process for the project that has recently been delayed primarily by the excessive rain we have experienced. The steps he described are: 1. Preparation of design grids and final preparation of the mural design. 2. Prime the surfaces to be painted. 3. Paint the surfaces (discussed order in which surfaces would be painted to minimize chances of vandalism. 4. Seal painted surfaces. 5. Have a "ribbon cutting" or unveiling event to include members of the Wong Family and other dignitaries. Mr. Foster also suggested an addition to the front arch of a small painting of Mount Helena done in the manner of traditional Chinese literati landscape paintings. There was a positive response to that idea. He referenced the "Helena the Way She Was" website for some of his information. He said he is teaching classes during the summer but he could be done with the murals by Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>.
5. Helena Citizens Council: HCC vice-chair Lora Behlmer said the HCC can be a helping hand for the HPAC and could provide a communication network through collaboration. The HCC speaks before the City Commission twice a month on Monday nights.

Included in the handouts for the meeting was a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Helena City Council and the Helena Citizens Council. The purpose of that MOU is to:

“...to attain full participation in HCC Standing Committees, Boards and Councils; to bring one citywide development management issue to the City Commission level through the HCC, to initiate two community outreach and intra activities and to establish a trial period for appointments to the following City boards: Helena International Affairs Council (HIAC); Public Art Committee (PAC); and Urban Wildlife Advisory Committee (UWAC). During this trial period, the City and HCC can evaluate the merits of this appointment system and decide whether or not to continue it on an ongoing basis.”

Further reading of the MOU found that this draft is limited to instructions on how HCC will make recommendations to the Mayor for appointments to vacancies on each of the boards until 50% of the positions on each of the boards have been filled by HCC recommended persons. After a target of 50% from HCC and 50% from the City is reached, future vacancies will be alternated between City and HCC recommended candidates. The City Commission will have final approval authority over all appointments whether recommended by the HCC or the City.

The HPAC members discussed this initiative. There was agreement on three major points:

1. That HPAC wanted to be cooperative in working with HCC, the Mayor, the Administration, and the City Commission.
2. That HPAC's "voice" should be strengthened by any change in our structural arrangement.
3. That champions for public art should have a base from which to operate and advocate.

We were encouraged by the HCC representative to express our concerns and expectations, and to submit them to the HCC leadership.

A meeting with HCC is scheduled immediately following the June 9<sup>th</sup> HPAC meeting which Vivian Hays, Russ Cargo, and Kathy Macefield planned to attend.

6. Airport Art Follow-up: An invitation was included in the meeting packet for an unveiling of two paintings by Helena artist, Robert F. Morgan, at 10:00 AM on 22 June 2011 at the Helena Regional Airport. The two paintings, Carroll College – Morrison Flying Service WWII Flight Training Programs and As They Round the Far Turn will be unveiled and Bob Morgan and Jeff Morrison will speak about the historical events these paintings depict.

Russ Cargo reported that his contact with the Salt Lake City Airport revealed that the art on display there is part of the Airport's permanent collection. They have a curator and purchase artworks from galleries representing Utah artists

for display in the Airport. They also have two display cases for the Utah Museum of Fine Arts and the Utah Natural History Museum with rotating displays (about once annually) that are maintained and curated by the respective museums. A response from Russ's request for information from the Minneapolis Airport had not been received prior to the meeting. Russ will provide other examples at a subsequent meeting with a recommendation for HPAC.

7. Chalk Up Helena: Kathy Macefield reviewed the status of this major event beginning with distribution of a booklet published by the Helena Independent Record of 100 Things to Do in Helena showing a large photo of one of last year's *Chalk Up Helena* entry on the cover. This report included assignments for media appearances by HPAC members, requesting food vendors to participate in this years event, and the contribution of water from the Department of Health as well as plastics recycling up from SAVE.
  8. Open Studios Tour: Kathy Macefield again gave an update that 19 artists signed up to participate on the tour this year and we still have a few outstanding ticket sites to confirm.
  9. Public Comment: There was no public comment.
  10. Other Business: There was no new business except for scheduling a special meeting of HPAC to discuss the incorporation of HPAC into the HCC and developing a response to this opportunity. That meeting was planned for 3:30 PM on Wednesday, 15 June 2011.
10. The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.