



Meeting Minutes

3:30 p.m., February 15, 2018

Room 326, City-County Building

1. Call meeting to order and establish quorum

Members present: Johnny Moore (Chair), Susan Steffens (Vice Chair), Andres Haladay (City Commissioner), Anastasia Burton, Flannery Herbert, Nick Ladas, Mitch Carroll; Mary Vandebosch (staff); Kathy Macefield (volunteer)

Additional persons present: Glenn Jorgenson, Libbi Lovshin, Carrie Hahn, Laura Wigger (MMIA); Rick Ahmann and Sean Logan (Friends of the Fire Tower)

2. Approve minutes from January 18

— Susan makes a motion to approve, Mitch seconds, Minutes approved.

3. Hill Park Public Art Project

a. Report from Ron Waterman

Ron was unable to attend this month's meeting, but hopes to be present to give an update in March.

b. YWCA Community Conversation?

At the request of HPAC Member Abigail St. Lawrence, this agenda item has been deferred to the March meeting.

4. Insurance of art installations

a. MMIA

b. Coverage

With additional information from Glenn, Libbi and Carrie, Laura Wigger from the Montana Municipal Insurance Authority (a "risk pool" manager, not an insurance company), gave the committee a brief overview of the coverage policy for public artwork. As the artwork is given the same classification as buildings under the City's policy, all artwork in the City's possession (i.e. on City property) and on the schedule held by MMIA is covered with a \$10,000 deductible; artwork not on City property or on the schedule may also be covered, but with a higher deductible. To be covered, artwork on loan or lease must be accompanied by legal documentation of the arrangement and a value must be provided by the artist. Regarding artwork gifted to the City, the City is responsible for assigning or acquiring an appraised value.

Glen added that, in general, artwork not on City property is not covered (e.g. the Women's Mural which was originally installed under an easement which may no longer be valid; Mary V. will investigate the existence of other artwork in place under easement.)

5. Prospect interchange proposal

- a. Mike Griffith ideas
- b. Discussion

Mike was not able to attend the meeting; Kathy Macefield shared that he is intending to commission a bronze sculpture of a prospector to be located near the Prospect Avenue interchange and that he currently believes he will be able to independently raise the needed funds, but hopes to have the confidence of the Helena Public Art Committee.

6. Damage to "Take It Easy" on Butte Avenue

- a. Information?

Mary has not received any update from the Helena Police. At Kathy's suggestion, John will contact Helena Public Works about the possibility of installing a solar street light at or near the roundabout where the art installation is located to possibly deter vandalism. Also, a "Missing Art Work" poster may be developed and distributed. Mitch will contact the artist regarding the possibility of replacement.

7. Maintenance

- a. Brynn Holt contract?

Mary shared that the contract will be included in the Commission's next administrative meeting for approval. John updated Commissioner Haladay about the decision to repair the installation in question ("All of the Above, None of the Above").

8. Installation planning for FY 2018

- a. Updated list (Becky)
- b. Possible installations

Possible future installation sites will be discussed at the March meeting with reference to the prioritized lists Becky is compiling.

9. Fire Tower reconstruction

- a. Information

Rick Ahmann and Sean Logan joined the meeting to share the details of an ongoing effort to reconstruct/restore the Fire Tower on behalf of the Friends of the Fire Tower citizen group. They noted that the Fire Tower is an important and omnipresent emblem of the Helena Community, predating Montana's Statehood (the original Fire Tower was built in 1869; the present tower is actually the third to stand on that site.) Further, they shared that after an October 2017 meeting with City officials, it was decided to pursue a path to restoration of the Fire Tower, involving the Montana Preservation Alliance and Pam Attardo (L&C County Heritage Preservation Officer) and Amy Teagarden (Director of Helena City Parks & Recreation). Hoping to curb any confusion, they are working to publicize the fact that as a part of the process of addressing the Fire Tower's restoration, a demolition permit must be acquired from the City; this does not ensure an intent to demolish. The goal of the Friends of the Fire Tower is to both repair and establish a procedure for maintaining the tower in an ongoing fashion.

Individuals interested in the project can join the Friends of the Fire Tower group on Facebook and look to attend an upcoming exhibition at the Myrna Loy showcasing artwork that features/celebrates the icon. Finally, they shared that the group is currently in the quiet phase of fundraising with an ultimate goal of \$80,000.

10. Public comment

Susan shared that Chris at Danzer's Paint has agreed to assess the repairs needed to the graffiti damage done to the mural in Performance Square; Kathy added that Chris is likely not to be able to do so until springtime.

John noted that Chris Riccardo has decided to renew his HPAC membership for a second term.

It was agreed to begin planning for the Spring Art Walk and Chalk Up Helena at the March meeting.

11. Next meeting March 15

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