



**March 26, 2007 Board Meeting
Meeting Notes – approved**

In Attendance:

Ellen Fineberg
M.L. Geffert
Russell Grazier, Chair
Chris Greiner
Jane James
Sheila Shea

Absent:

George Friese
Blair Hundertmark
Marge Hubbard
Jennifer Murphy Aubin
Leanne Spees
Deb Thompson
Mimi White

Also:

Sue Cobler

Russ Grazier began the meeting at 7:10pm.

1. Review of Minutes

Without a quorum meeting minutes could not be approved.

2. Treasurer's Report

Russ Grazier reported that the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation grant monies will be distributed in the 1st Quarter of FY '08 (July).

He also reported that he and Leanne have spoken about restructuring the A-S budget so that it will be easier to read and interpret.

It was also discussed among the board at large that when considering new board members, the nominating committee ought to look at nominees with financial experience.

3. President's Report

Russ Grazier reported that the deadline for the NH Council on the Arts Governor's Awards nominations is Friday, April 20. After discussion the board decided to make two



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nominations this year: Executive Director of The Music Hall, Patricia Lynch, for the Distinguished Arts Leadership Award, and Pro Portsmouth for the Community Spirit Award. In addition Ellen Fineberg will look into whether Peter Randall has received an award already. If not, she will encourage the Portsmouth Athenaeum to nominate him for the Living Treasure award; Art-Speak would support the nomination with a letter.

4. Coordinator's Report

Sue Cobler reported that the RFP for the Portsmouth Central Fire Station sculpture has gone out and she has distributed it extensively.

She also reported that the Percent for Art Implementation Plan is going smoothly. She and Jane met with City Attorney Bob Sullivan and he has agreed to speak at the Public Art Forum in May. She also clarified that the Sheraton's proposed parking garage would not fall under the Percent for Art ordinance because it is private project, which would be purchased by the City at a later date. She also recommended that the board begin to take action regarding Percent for Art aspect of the \$3.5 million renovation to the Lafayette Road Fire Station – Bob Sullivan clarified that a formal Percent for Art implementation plan is not necessary, that the ordinance serves as its own plan.

In addition, the board requested that Sue write a letter to John Bohenko notifying him of our intention to “step up to the plate” regarding the Fire Station and any additional planned capital improvement projects.

5. Task Force Reports

a. Americans for the Arts Survey Release

- i. Sue Cobler reported that we've paid for Randy Cohen to visit Portsmouth for one day. His visit would include a public reception, public presentation of the survey data, meetings with local media, the Economic Development Commission, editorial boards, and others. To fund this event, \$2,700 has already been granted by Provident Bank. To secure the additional funds needed, Sue has applied for a State grant. Sue is waiting to hear back from Randy about his availability, but the survey release is currently planned for early September of this year. There was additional discussion about whether Chris Greiner would step down as chair this task force to focus on his chair of the Overnight Art task force. Ellen Fineberg suggested asking Marge Hubbard if she would be interested in co-chairing the task force with her, given the Chamber's interest in this project.

b. Public Art Ordinance Implementation Plan

- i. This was reported on during the coordinator's report.

c. Live/Work Zoning Ordinances

- i. No report.

d. Overnight Art



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- i. Sue Cobler reported that she is waiting to hear about the State Council on the Arts grant needed to fund this project – she should find out by mid-April.

6. Old Business

No old business.

7. New Business

Jane James raised the idea of permanently changing the time of the board meetings.

8. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Meeting notes taken by Chris Greiner



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Art-Speak, City Cultural Commission Board of Directors (alpha order)

Jennifer Murphy Aubin
Ellen Fineberg, *Vice Chair*
George Friese
M.L. Geffert
Russell Grazier, *Chair*
Christopher Greiner
Marge Hubbard
Blair Hundertmark
Jane James
Deb Thompson, *Secretary*
Sheila Shea
Leanne Spees, *Treasurer*
Mimi White
Nancy Carmer, *Ex Officio*
John Bohenko, *Ex Officio*