



Art-Speak
CITY OF PORTSMOUTH CULTURAL COMMISSION
April 30, 2007 Board Meeting
Meeting Notes – approved

In Attendance:

Ellen Fineberg
M.L. Geffert
Chris Greiner
Russell Grazier, Chair
Marge Hubbard
Blair Hundertmark
Jane James
Sheila Shea
Leanne Spees
Deb Thompson
Mimi White

Absent:

Jennifer Murphy Aubin
George Friese

Also:

Sue Cobler

Russ Grazier began the meeting at 7:07pm.

1. Review of Minutes

A motion was made by Jane James with a second by Ellen Fineberg to approve the March 26, 2007 minutes. The motion was unanimously approved with one change: in 5(a) (i) instead of \$2700, the amount should be \$2750. A motion was made by Jane James with a second by Sheila Shea to approve the February 26, 2007 minutes. The motion was unanimously approved.

2. Treasurer's Report

Leanne Spees presented the Art-Speak budget as of 4/30/07, which reflected the NHCF grant that came in for the rollout of the Americans for the Arts survey results. Russ added that Celina Adams from the NHCF reported that the check for the \$20K grant was supposed to have been sent to Art-Speak in February. She will be sure that the check is issued in May.

3. President's Report

Russ Grazier expressed interest in discussing what we as a board want to focus on in the coming months. He suggested that a board discussion about direction and new initiatives occur after the task force reports.



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Russ also reported that he and Chris Greiner completed the application to nominate Patricia Lynch for the NHBCA award.

4. Coordinator's Report

Sue Cobler reported that she sent out invitations for the Percent for Public Art Forum. To date, there were 14 RSVPs. She distributed the bio of keynote speaker Howard Ben Tre to the board.

Sue also discussed with the board the planned September rollout of the Americans for the Arts survey results with Randy Cohen. Because of Rosh Hashanah, the board suggested that his visit be postponed from September 13 and 14 to the following week. Sue will confirm that Randy Cohen is available for that time period. During his visit, Sue will arrange meetings with members of the press, the EDC, Rotary, and executive directors and board members from non-profits in the area. A reception for businesses and city officials will also be scheduled.

Sue reported that plans for the African American Burial Ground are moving forward, and she is researching grants that might be applicable to this process. She also met with the parking manager who expressed interest in making the parking garage more appealing. Sue was looking into grants for that project and suggested brainstorming with public artists to generate ideas.

5. Task Force Reports

a. Americans for the Arts Survey

- i. Leanne Spees will chair the rollout committee going forward. This committee would plan a grant-funded two-day event to disseminate the results from the survey. The grant would cover the event as well as follow up from July 1st through the end of year.

b. Public Art Ordinance Implementation Plan

- i. Jane James reported that on May 11th, the implementation plan would be presented at the forum and that the press had been notified. Chris Greiner suggested that artists get a second email blast about the forum with Howard Ben Tre's bio and an image of his work.
- ii. Per the library staff's request, Jeff Hyland and/or Blair Hundertmark will get training on A/V equipment in advance of the forum. It was suggested that any available board members meet for lunch with Howard Ben Tre after the forum.

c. Live/Work Zoning Ordinances

- i. No report.

d. Overnight Art

- i. Chris Greiner reported that this committee was in a holding pattern until grant funds come through but he suggested that a task force be formed. After much discussion about various themes, funding opportunities, and the budget for this event, it was determined that a task force, consisting of Mimi White, Deb Thompson, Blair Hundertmark and Leanne Spees will investigate this



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further. Volunteers for this committee will also be solicited from outside the board.

6. What's Next? Initiatives raised by board members.

- a. **Jane:**
 - i. Talk with Rick Taintor to follow up on Live/Work space ordinance and find out the status of this ordinance.
 - ii. Consider participating in the Federal Home Loan program again.
- b. **Marge:**
 - i. Find a way to impact the community.
 - ii. Work with children.
 - iii. Get the support of business committee.
- c. **Chris:**
 - i. Make broader connections with artists and cultural workers.
- d. **Deb:**
 - i. Focus on making Overnight Art a successful, quality experience for artists and the community.
- e. **Mimi:**
 - i. Likes having task forces as opposed to standing committees.
 - ii. See literary artists involved in projects.
 - iii. Involve kids in Art-Speak projects.
- f. **Sheila:**
 - i. Sees students as an untapped group.
 - ii. Expand on education component.
 - iii. Bring A-S to younger people.
- g. **Leanne:**
 - i. Expand outreach to business community and to schools and see Overnight Art as a catalyst to that.
- h. **M.L.:**
 - i. Come up with mechanisms to promote and enhance public art in all genres.
 - ii. Make art visible and vibrant in the community.
- i. **Ellen:**
 - i. Catalog public art in our community and involve high school kids in that process.
 - ii. Look at history of public art in our community.
- j. **Blair:**
 - i. Reach out to artist constituency in a stronger way.
 - ii. Look into collaborations between different types of artists.
 - iii. Increase scope of Art-Speak.
- k. **Russ:**
 - i. Involve with other arts organizations.
 - ii. Look at projects that touch on many of the above projects.
 - iii. Encourage giving in the arts via Art-Speak.

7. Old Business

No old business.



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8. New Business

No new business.

9. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm.

Meeting notes taken by Deb Thompson, *Secretary*



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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
Sheila Shea
Deb Thompson, *Secretary*
Leanne Spees, *Treasurer*
Mimi White
Nancy Carmer, *Ex Officio*
John Bohenko, *Ex Officio*