



CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

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**Salem Public Art Commission
July 11, 2018
City Manager's Conference Room (Room 220)**

Commissioners

Chris D'Arcy, Chair
Paula Booth
Rachel Bucci
Nathan Good
Michael Hernandez
Eileen Cotter Howell

Guests

Linda Coons, Save the Peace Mosaic Committee
Cathy Daniels, Save the Salem Peace Mosaic
Jane Cummins-Fidler, Salem Art Assn. Gallery Guides
Jackie Heavy, Salem Main Street
Mary Heintzman, Eco Earth Globe
Bonnie Hull
Toni Kramer, Salem Peace Mosaic
Alice Phalan, Salem Peace Lecture Committee
Lynn Takata, Save the Salem Peace Mosaic
Carlee Wright, Press Play Salem

Staff

Courtney Knox Busch
Sheri Wahrgren, Urban Development

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1. **Call to Order**—With a quorum present, Chair Chris D'Arcy called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.
 2. **Introductions**—Chair D'Arcy welcomed Commissioners and guests. Everyone introduced themselves for the record.
 3. **Public Comment**— Jackie Heavy, representing the Salem Main Street organization, spoke to the group's interest in art as a catalyst for engagement in the alleys. The group meets every other Tuesday at the Ike Box from 5-6 pm, with the next meeting scheduled for July 24. She also reported that the Salem Weekly recently wrote an article on the 50 miles of art along Highway 99, through Corvallis and other communities. The Salem Main Street organization is looking forward to collaborating in some way.
 4. **Approval of Agenda and Minutes**
 - a. Approval of July 11, 2018 agenda
 - b. Approval of minutes of June 13, 2018
Motion: To accept the agenda of July 11, 2018 and the minutes of June 13, 2018, n to approve the consent agenda, with the inclusion of Commissioner Michael Hernandez in the joint OASF/SPAC meeting summary.

Motion: Commissioner Cotter Howell — **Seconded:** Commissioner Bucci

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

❖ Reasonable accommodation and accessibility services will be provided upon request ❖
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Action: Approved unanimously.

5. Action Items

- a. **Next Steps: Salem Peace Mosaic.** Chair D'Arcy opened discussion of the Salem Peace Mosaic with a reference to the ARG proposal for protection and relocation of the mosaic, developed in consultation with local contractors willing to do the work and a site visit with the artist, architect for the YMCA project, and YMCA staff. The recommended approach is to build a structure around the mosaic to protect it as the building is demolished and move it to nearby storage, pending relocation. The cost estimate for the work is \$350,000 to \$400,000 and includes a 20% contingency. As a next step, the City could issue an RFP for the protection and relocation of the mosaic. Funding for this effort has not been identified.

The group asked questions about whether or how to encourage to the YMCA to protect and relocate the mosaic as part of their work with structural engineers or to integrate the art work into the new structure. The group also had questions about the schedule for the YMCA project.

Chair D'Arcy asked those present to share their comments, during which Commissioner Booth arrived. Jame Cummins-Fidler, Alice Phalan, Bonnie Hull and Toni Kramer provided comments. Jane Cummins-Fidler submitted written testimony, remarked that the Salem Art Association Gallery Guides group was one of the funders, and spoke to the importance of the art work being featured in a public space. Alica Phalan spoke to possible future locations for the work and the importance of selecting a highly visible spot. Bonnie Hull submitted written testimony and spoke to the importance of the work being at the YMCA and in public view. Toni Kramer spoke to the interactive and inviting nature of the mural as one of the reasons people come to visit Salem.

Commissioners discussed the project, expressing interest in engaging the YMCA in discussion and concern about attaching a public art work to a private building. Commissioners also asked who would take the lead in fundraising. Lynn Takata announced the formation of a 501c4 to fundraise for the project, and the group's efforts to seek a fiscal agent. She also reported that the Mayor is committed to looking for other funds from the City, State and other sources and to working with the YMCA toward a solution. She offered that her committee would take the lead in the fundraising effort.

As to next steps, there was some discussion of whether a bidders conference should be required. Lynn Takata offered that she would like to ensure a firm in Maryland that she has been working with should be included.

Commissioners also discussed whether or how to encourage the YMCA to take some responsibility in the protection and relocation of the mural and sought clarification of the City's legal standing. Staff reminded the group that the easement for the work, requiring seven years of maintenance on the part of the property owner, was never recorded. In the early days of the Salem Public Art Commission, the minutes show that the work was considered and accepted into the public art collection. The group also discussed the cost estimate in more detail, noting the bulk of the cost is for sandwiching the work within a wall for stability as the building around it is demolished, and that the estimate excludes

relocation cost - such as preparing a new site for the work. Safely removing it and storing it buys time for the fundraising and the community conversation about the best location.

Motion: To direct staff to work on a three pronged approach to include issuing an RFP, seeking additional information from the City Attorney about possible next steps the City could take, and engaging in formal communications with the YMCA Board about the future of the Salem Peace Mosaic.

Motion: Commissioner Good — **Seconded:** Commissioner Cotter Howell

Discussion:

When public art is placed on a private building subject to demolition, the roles are spelled out in the easement. In this case, the easement was approved but not executed or attached to the property record. The group sought clarity about the City's responsibility and the YMCA's commitment. Commission requested YMCA Board participation on August 8.

Action: Approved unanimously.

- b. **Mattingly Mural Proposal for Minor Clean Up and Repair.** Commissioner Cotter Howell shared with the group the Friends of Mattingly Mural's interest in conducting some additional clean up on the Mattingly Mural. The group has \$5,000 remaining from the last effort and is working with Dan Cohen to get an evaluation of restoration need for the work. Due to the damage to the lower masonry wall, the historic process supersedes art restoration. Staff will reach out to learn more about the historic process and next steps.

6. Discussion Items

- a. **Downtown Streetscape.** Sheri Wahrgren, the City of Salem's Downtown Revitalization Manager, spoke to the Commission about the current effort to engage the community in design for downtown's streetscape. The design effort originates from a 2016 community discussion about priorities in the Riverfront Downtown Urban Renewal Plan and Downtown Strategic Action Plan (2011). Implementation of the streetscape design will occur in phases, is based on the design type and will likely result in more landscaping and lighting. There is an on-line survey on the City's website. For more, <https://www.cityofsalem.net/Pages/downtown-salem-streetscape-design.aspx>

Sheri spoke about recent progress made in the effort to activate alleys. Within the last four years, the City has offered urban renewal grant funds, business names are now visible, and the group is working on alley naming, trash enclosures and lighting. The murals downtown were well received by the Downtown Advisory Board. Through urban renewal and in collaboration with the Oregon Artist Series Foundation, art pedestals were placed in the downtown. The plan to install more pedestals has been placed on hold, pending further art acquisition. As the streetscape plan moves forward, there will be more discussion about incorporating art into the streetscape. Chair D'Arcy spoke to the interest on the part of both OASF and SPAC in better connecting people to public art, moving more public art out of the downtown, and possibly reconsidering the location for the art pedestals that are planned but not yet constructed. In January, there will be more opportunities to discuss art within the Salem Downtown Streetscape.

- b. **Collection Subcommittee.** Staff directed Commissioners to the meeting packet, which included summaries from recent Collection Subcommittee meetings. Work has progressed with the help of an intern on the brochure and scavenger hunt concepts. Staff are working to brand these pieces and build them in City-supported software for future use. At the next Subcommittee meeting, the group will hear from the intern who developed the art inventory web presence.
 - c. **Eco Earth Globe Restoration Strategy.** The group deferred discussion of this topic to a future meeting.
 - d. **Follow up: OASF/SPAC Discussion.** OASF recently acquired a new work for the Convention Center. The group expressed interest in meeting quarterly and clarifying roles.
 - e. **Media Inquiries.** The group discussed deferring media inquiries to the Chair and to the Vice Chair, if the Chair is unavailable.
7. **Commissioner's Comments**
Commissioner Hernandez provided the group with an update on the recent Pitt/Hilde team site visit for the Bottle Bill commemorative work. The artist team next plans to bring a full size cardboard mockup of the work to the site to select the best location for the work's display.
- a. **Recruitment Update.** There is one opening on the Commission for an at-large position. Commissioner Hernandez has had conversations with James O'Shea and will encourage his application.
 - b. **Upcoming SPAC meetings:** August 8, 2018.
 - c. **Upcoming Subcommittee Meetings:** July 31.
8. **ADJOURN**—With no other business before the Commission, Chair D'Arcy adjourned the meeting at 11:37 a.m. The next meeting is set for August 8, 2018, from 9:30-11:30 am.
