

July Meeting Minutes

Meeting Called to order 6:03

In Attendance: Sam Swindler, Paul Montone, Jordan Imlah, Josh Freeman, Sarah McCoy, Mark McCrary, Laura Steenson

Introductions: Susanna Pai of Lake Rd joined us. She shared that she is interested in joining a city committee, so she was checking out the arts committee to see if it's some place she might fit in.

Everyone quickly introduced themselves.

Minutes Approved: Members reviewed the June minutes individually before the meeting. No concerns, questions or revisions were brought to attention. Mark moved to approve, and Josh seconded. Minutes were approved.

Financial Report: We have had problems getting the Porchfest sponsorship money from Ovation. Sam has some expenses to send in for Porchfest advertising. Jordan has paid the Made in Milwaukie invoice for t-shirts

Porchfest: Sam reported that the final count for the first week was 29. We're sitting at 25 for week 2 and up to about 30 for the last week.

No issues with sign distribution or pick up; Paul was not able to get the sign from the Davises so he's working on that.

One small problem in Island Station this year. In the past, the road was illegally closed during Porchfest. The hosts were told that roads could not be closed and if they want help getting a block party permit to let the committee know. However, the same location in Island Station had the road shut down again due to children dancing in the street. Someone in the neighborhood chose to park a vehicle across the street to block it off and that caused some problems with someone driving through.

The decision was made to communicate to the neighbors in that area that they cannot do that, and if they want to continue to participate they will be required to get a block party permit in order to be listed on the map and advertised.

Lots of great feedback, people signing up again because they had such a great time!

Took a few minutes to get some of the map locations straightened out, clarify about people canceling, etc.

Jordan asked if he should be selling t-shirts at City Hall. We discussed doing for week 2. Jordan will also make sure the people playing at the food carts get their shirts since we weren't able to get their shirts to them for week 1.

Murals: The mural on the post office has begun! It is somewhere around 50% done. She is taking up the entire wall and it's looking great! Jordan reported that she is doing it in spray paint first, and then she'll go back over it with other paint. It did get tagged when she first started. Jordan reported that she will put an anti-graffiti coating on it. Laura asked if we should be more concerned since it is so close to the MAX station and will likely get more traffic. Jordan said that yes, we should watch it more closely as things in that area do get tagged occasionally.

Sam asked if we are planning an unveiling. Jordan reported that this may be the first time the Grand Ronde is allowing a non-tribal member to do a tribal style mural. With that in mind, we should bring this up with the Grand Ronde and invite them so we can highlight the collaboration. Jordan also stated that he believes City Council will want us to do that as well as this one is near and dear to them.

Jordan encouraged us to start planning something soon as the artist's contract is set to have her finishing up the beginning of August. Jordan will reach out to the Grand Ronde to see when a good time would be for them. Laura suggested that we look at beginning of September for the unveiling so we have more time to plan

Kanani (the muralist) would like to set up a webpage that people can scan a QR code and it takes them to the webpage where they can learn about the symbolism of the elements of the mural. Jordan will get that information from her so we know how to proceed.

Mark asked if the tribes might help financially for the unveiling. Jordan was going to look into that.

Discussion veered to the statues that the Grand Ronde wants to install of the herons, discussing the timeline of that. Jordan will get details for us.

Paul asked if the artist is local. She is.

It was decided that our first step is to reach out to the Grand Ronde to see if they're interested in being involved in the unveiling and see how they want to proceed.

Regarding the Milwaukie Community Center mural, we will likely need to take that on to help make it happen. Sam asked if someone would like to be the "mural person" to navigate that. Josh volunteered to take that on.

Jordan reminded us that Sam suggested Mike Bennett as an option for the community center. Josh will reach out to Mike about this. Sam also suggested that we go back and look at the people who've submitted proposals before. Sam asked if we need to put out a call for artists. Laura reminded us that there was another muralist that lived in the area and expressed interest. Sam will get that information to Josh as well.

Jordan said that Cha Cha Cha is still interested. He asked Carmen, the owner of the restaurant, to come to an Arts Committee meeting to discuss it. Jordan did ask Carmen who owns the building but hasn't heard back yet.

Mural Funding: We are currently working with the \$20,000 for the next biennium, but we can ask businesses to chip in. Josh said the Milwaukie Center said they may be able to help with a couple thousand dollars, and Sam suggested that we also ask places to kick in for the unveilings.

Susanna mentioned that Lake Road is looking into paying for a mural and wondered if hiring a HS student was an ok idea. Laura explained that while some HS students may be capable, they will likely need more guidance, time and assistance than a professional. Susanna is going to take that back to Lake Road and discuss with them and get back to us on what they decide. Mark pointed out that if we had a student working with a professional, that could help us with earning grants in the future and maybe lead to a strong partnership with the artist going into the classes to teach about doing murals and then work with the students to plan and implement.

Call for sculptors: The call will go out next month. Jordan put the information in the slack channel and asked that we all review it and let him know about any changes we'd like to make. The information typically goes out end of August and is open for a month or so, then the committee chooses what goes in next. Past committees have sometimes selected a theme and asked artists to work within that, and that is something we could do (Bing cherries perhaps?!)

Sam commented that last time we had a hard time getting enough options at all, so perhaps a theme is not smart.

Mark asked for clarification on the RFP. Sam clarified that the sculptors receive a \$1000 honorarium for loaning us the sculpture for 2 years, and they are required to install and remove (as well as do any maintenance/repair necessary). He suggested that we could use this as a way to tie in with Bing in the New Year.

Laura suggested that we think about a theme of "Celebration of Milwaukie" and list examples of things like Bing Cherry, Dogwoods, Geese, etc. Sam suggested that if we do that, we can say that sculptures that play to the theme will be given extra consideration.

Other Business: Mark brought up a grant opportunity through Clackamas County Cultural Coalition that has a deadline in September. He plans to meet with them beforehand, and educated us that you have to get the whole board to buy in. Mark is asking the committee to think of ways to put a twist on what we're already doing to get the CCCC to kick in for something that allows us to grow the project.

Sam asked if we could try to get a grant for something like hiring a light artist to create something for Winter Lights Festival. Mark says possibly, it just depends on the plan!

Mark asked us to have ideas to him by August 1 so he can get us a draft before the August meeting. It would get submitted by Sept 7. Mark guesses they will notify recipients in December, and the group will then have a year to spend the money.

Sam reported that Greg Hemer had a combo birthday party/fundraiser for the Museum at the Elk's Lodge, and he talked up the cherry. Ultimately they raised \$7200 total, which isn't necessarily earmarked for the cherry, but means we may be able to get them to donate. Sam suggested that we discuss with the Museum that the Museum hire someone to do the research and put together an exhibit on Ah Bing and the Chinese immigrants so that we include the Chinese voice in this.

Susanna suggested we discuss this with the Northwest China Council. She will get the information to Jordan so we can connect with them. Sam was able to find it online and will put the information in the Slack.

Paul has some information on Winter Light Festival. He connected with Hamid to start working this out to get some artists and locations connected for the coming festival. Paul will follow up in Slack!

Jordan reported that the Love is Love painting will be hung in City Hall in the stairwell near the town map.

Laura asked if we're able to meet in person. We are, and it was decided to try to do our August meeting in person at the Library with a Zoom option for those who prefer. Jordan will look into booking a space for us.

Meeting adjourned 7:13