



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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05/16/2013 Minutes

Vision 2020 Arlington Public Art

DRAFT Minutes, Meeting May 16, 2013

Town Hall Annex, first floor conf. room

Meeting came to order at 9:05 am

Attendance: Adria Arch, Karen Wihbey, Jane Howard, David Ardito, Rose Austin, Bill Turville, Jaime Joseph, John Budzyna, Jan Whitted, Alberto Guzman, Gail McCormick, Stephanie Marlin-Curiel

- Discussion about the Arl. Heights Bus Depot mural debacle. Stephanie started to write a letter to the editor of the Advocate to advocate for transparency when public art is decommissioned. She was going to have APA sign it, but it seemed like a better thing for the Arlington Cultural Council. Adria will use pieces of her blogpost to send as a letter to the editor of the Advocate, and sign it from APA.
- John Budzyna presented our budget. As it stands, APA now has a balance of \$903.51 in the bank! We discussed insurance costs around the Spy Pond Mural, and how we need to be mindful to keep that much money in the bank for each year's renewal of the insurance. We pay approx. \$250 annually (ACA includes the insurance under their carrier). A reminder that all public art pieces need to be somehow insured – and it is therefore important to think about that each time a new piece is installed. Stephanie will ask Town Counsel Julianna Rice how insurance would work for the new Waldo Park sculpture.
- Feast of the East – Adria will staff all day, she will be painting a chair, displaying her chair, and handing out our postcards to announce Chairful. Nilou will be doing the children's activity – she designed a paper chair to be colored and then assembled at home with parents' help. Alberto will also be there to help. Gail arranged for our table to be next to Friends of Spy Pond Park and Sustainable Arlington for better staffing coverage.
- Mass Ave. infrastructure discussion. Stephanie and Jan both reported on discussions with Carol Kowalski, Town Planner, about the design of the benches and light posts being planned for the new Mass Ave makeover. They will meet separately as a working committee to report back to the group in July about how/if we can influence the choices of these things, and if we wanted to change or buy different, more artfully designed pieces, how that might happen.
- A short discussion of where Arlington Cultural Commission stands vis a vis the mural debacle, and future business as coordinating body of all the diverse arts and culture groups in town. It remains to be seen how that coordination will take place.
- Adria mentioned a conversation with Don Benjamin, former Town Planner, who says we should "go for it" by requesting 1% of the capital budget to be set aside for public art purchases and maintenance. Jane Howard and Adria will discuss how this might be approached with the Town.
- The warrant article for a Fund for Public Art was presented to the Selectmen at the last meeting and was not a "slam dunk", but it did pass. It will need to go through the state legislature before being put into practice, but our first hurdle was successfully managed. It passed NOT just because it will help promote art in our town, but also because it would facilitate the maintenance and repair of all public art in town. Jane reminded everyone that there is a small but vocal minority who does not support spending funds on art.
- Adria summarized her meeting with Town Manager Adam Chapdelaine. He has given permission for APA to take on a project of painting some of the electrical transformer boxes in town, pending the approval of the Selectmen. Adam asked Adria to present the idea to the next Selectman meeting. She will meet with a working group to shape a proposal and to identify 5 to 10 boxes to be painted before the meeting in June. The group is Adria, Dave, Karen, Jane, and Alberto. Adria put forward her wish to see an eventual position of "Arts and Culture Liaison" in the town. She also recommended that we invite the new Town Economic Development Officer, Ted Fields, to our next meeting.
- Update on Chairful: Rose and Jill are working on the postcard, imagery will carry over to a poster and signage as we move forward. Five "celebrity jurors" will give awards to chair artists, categories to be determined. Ryan Livergood, Jane Howard, Joe Curro, Marc Gurton, Jan Whitted have all agreed to jury chairs. Questions about how exactly EBay would work. We'll figure it all

out and tell the group at the next meeting. Adria asked all APA members to spread the word about signups, we need about 30 more artists.

- There are a series of three meetings having to do with the design of the Master Plan coming up this spring. It behooves all of us to be there as much as we can to provide a strong presence for the arts and culture. The dates are:

- Saturday, June 1, 12:30 - 3:00 p.m. at **Arlington High School**, 869 Mass. Ave. (includes lunch);
 - Tuesday, June 4, 8:15 – 10:30 a.m. at **Cambridge Savings Bank**, 1300 Mass. Ave. (Arlington Heights) (drop the kids at school; come by for coffee and a bite before you open for business);
 - Wednesday, June 5, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at the **Hardy School Cafeteria**, 52 Lake St. (light refreshments, desserts)

A Master Plan is the Town's policy statement on future land use and physical development. Arlington is a thriving attractive, desirable, and healthy place to live and do business. A plan considers the relationships between land use, housing, economic development, natural and cultural resources, open space and recreation, community facilities and services, and gives detailed steps to implement actions to reach goals in each area. Last fall, 150 residents began a community-wide conversation to determine the vision that will direct Arlington's land use and physical development for the foreseeable future. The sessions in June will move the conversation forward. The Master Plan will take between 18 months to two years to complete. You can read more about the Master Plan online at arlingtonma.gov/planning.

To receive updates on the project via email, please subscribe to Town of Arlington Notices online at arlingtonma.gov/subscriber.

New business and announcements:

- The Waldo Park sculpture project is moving ahead swimmingly. A pamphlet is being distributed with the dates and times of celebrations. Stephanie will send Adria info for the blog.
- Dave Ardito invited one and all to a reception for the K-12 art exhibit at Town Hall, second floor exhibit area. May 22, 4 – 6 :30 pm.
- Alberto announced many exciting plans for Arl. Film and Video Festival. Many collaborations with town groups, also w AHS.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.

Next meeting, June 20, 9 am.