

## **Amherst Public Art Commission**

February 15, 2018

Members in Attendance: Amy Crawley, Daniel Grant, William Kaizen, Ellen Keiter, and Rene Theberge

January meeting minutes approved.

### Chairman's Report

Artist PJ Niver attended the meeting to discuss her project idea addressing—and using—recycled materials in accordance with Amherst's Zero Waste Plan. The Commission recommended she reach out to the Amherst Cultural Council and the BID for 2019 funding opportunities. She should also connect with the organizers of the sustainability and earth day festivals in town. Other potential funders include Amherst Trucking, solar companies, and Mothers Out Front. PJ spoke to the recycling committee; like APAC, they don't have money to dedicate toward the project. Rene noted it would be difficult to coordinate a theme with area galleries since exhibitions are planned a year out and the galleries each operate independently.

### Upcoming Project Updates

Along with representatives from the University Museum of Contemporary Art, Rene and Bill met with Town Manager Paul Bockelman. He expressed support for the XTCA Cross Town Contemporary Art exhibition, but said the Select Board needs to give approval. Rene, Bill, and UMCA director Loretta Yarlow will make a presentation to the board.

The proposed Amherst College-sponsored mural addressing indigenous women's issues is no longer viable. It is too late in the semester and Professor Manuela, a visiting scholar, may not return next year.

Rene will email artist Vic Quezada for an update on the proposed project *The Wild*.

### Amherst Cultural Council Grant

Amy identified four electrical boxes in town: in front of Subway, near Starbucks, in front of Brueggers, and in front of St. Bridget's Church. Due to a reduction in funding (APAC requested \$1,400, received \$1,000), Amy needs to reduce the number of boxes to three. Her next step is to determine ownership.

Amy plans to schedule installation in early fall; the artwork will remain up for one year. She hopes to have supplies donated and APAC will provide a \$350 stipend to each artist. Several questions were raised. Who will compose the jury? Amy, Bill, and Ellen volunteered; it was agreed that stakeholders/building owners should be asked to serve as well. What are the desired qualifications for artists? Do the letters of agreement between APAC and the artists and box owners need to go through the town's legal department? The town manager? The Select Board?

### North Square at the Mill District

Rene emailed Beacon Communities, expressing APAC's interest in working with them. They are currently completing paperwork at the state level and requested Rene contact them again in April.

Daniel shared news that the city of Oakland, CA, passed a resolution requiring all new construction to incorporate public art. The style and type of art is up to each developer/owner to determine, but it must be present.

The recent Gazette article, "Amherst eyes five enhancement projects," identified the North Common in front of Town Hall, Groff Park, Community Field and other recreational facilities, a four-megawatt solar array, and a dog park as slated for construction or renovations in the upcoming year. Rene wants APAC brought into the process in the early design phase whenever the town embarks on new or renovation projects.

#### Treasurer's Report

Daniel reported a balance of \$537.28.

#### Percent for Art

Still awaiting approval from the state attorney general.

#### Public Art Site Condition Report

No update.

#### Downtown Forum

Reporting for Eric, Rene suggested the Commission submit recommendations to the Planning Board, reiterating APAC's commitment and support for the development of public art.

<http://amherstma.gov/3382/2nd-Downtown-Forum>

#### Town Hall Gallery

Amy and Ellen selected six artists and two alternates for the upcoming year (from a pool of 14). Commission members discussed guidelines as they pertain to political and religious art. Amy will edit the guidelines to include language such as "we reserve the right to remove." She will share her proposed changes at the next meeting. Bill suggested APAC curate one exhibition a year.

#### Web/social media Update

No update.

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Meeting adjourned 1:25 pm.