

Trolley Trail Art Steering Committee

Meeting Minutes
Trolley Trail Art Steering Committee
Wednesday, January 28, 2009; 4:00-6:00 pm
Oak Grove Fire Station Community Room
2930 SE Oak Grove Blvd, Milwaukie, OR 97267

Present: Michelle Healy, Ken Ackerman, Jan Fowler, William Wild, Pat Kennedy, Thelma Haggemiller, Pam Girtman, Gary Michael, Alicia Hamilton, Cheryl Snow

Staff: Bill Flood, Betsy Bostwick

Guest: Esther Prouty, Jerry Foy

I. Introductions and Welcome

- A. All individuals present introduced themselves.
- B. January 13 meeting minutes were approved with one change.
 - Under III.F., the minutes should read “non-offensive artworks”

II. Trail news/updates from members and staff

- A. Betsy Bostwick brought a question to the Committee from a local citizen regarding maintenance costs and where the revenue for maintenance will be coming from.
 - Michelle Healy reported that the estimated cost of yearly maintenance is \$40,000 from the Maintenance Budget. An additional maintenance employee may be added for the increased maintenance of the Trail.
 - Local volunteers also help with maintenance on the Trail.
- B. Thelma Haggemiller reported on a part of Trail history that is currently not included in the draft Guide.
 - A local resident, Steve Berliner, purchased land (near the wetlands/Jennings Lodge area) formerly owned by William Finley, the first game warden in Oregon, who was also a wildlife photographer.
 - Steve Berliner has offered to provide a historical background on this notable local figure.
 - William Finley’s heritage is an opportunity for interpretation along the Trail.
- C. A Committee member noted that the draft Guide focuses on visual art. Art along the Trail should not be limited to visual art.
 - There is an opportunity to commission a writer or poet to create the interpretive signage along the Trolley Trail.

III. Review/discuss draft public art guide

- A. The first major change is that the plan will be referred to as a “Public Art Guide” rather than a “Public Art Element”.

- B. In the Table of Contents, the purpose should read “Purpose of the Trolley Trail Public Art Guide”.
- C. The Committee will review the Introduction pieces of the Guide and send any content changes to Betsy Bostwick.

- The purpose of the Committee should be clearly defined in the Guide: the Committee’s purpose is to provide guidance and stewardship in developing the Public Art Guide. Future Committees will be charged with the selection of artwork. Individuals are invited to continue on future committees.

- D. The Committee agreed that the Vision in the Guide lacked inspiration and was just a description.

- The Vision is redundant and could be bulleted.

- The section of the Vision that begins “Artwork can include...” should be moved to the “What is public art” section.

- “Public Art Steering Committees” should be “Future Public Art Selection Committees”

- The Vision and Values should be combined under one heading “Vision & Values”.

- The Values give a great over-arching perspective of the Trail and will be inspiring to an artist.

- The “Vision and Values” should be tied into the “Threads/Themes” in the following section.

- The value labeled “Connections” could be improved with *Making or Celebrating Connections*: values are concepts by which decisions are made.

- The value labeled “Movement and Change” should be further discussed. *Change* is a contentious word in the area, but it is also true to the place and time.

- The value labeled “Environmental Conservation and Preservation” should be relabeled for accuracy for a continued mood and power as the other labels. The Committee will submit ideas to staff for a more inspiring label.

- E. The “Artwork can include...” section from the Vision should be included under “What is Public Art?”

- Further changes to the “What is Public Art?” sections will be emailed to staff.

- F. The Goals are still true to the work of the Committee.

- The word “relevance” should be reconsidered in Goal 1 and “document” should be changed to “Guide” in Goal 2.

- G. The section about “Unifying Threads” should be linked to the Values.

- Thread 2 should be relabeled “Connections/Paths of Energy” and should be clarified as referring to electric current.

- A thread should be added to include an environmental theme, like the Values.

- H. The bulleted list under “Features of the Trail to be Utilized in Public Art” should be moved under “Key Sites for Artwork”.

- I. There are significant issues with the flow of the end of the Guide.

-The “Opportunities for Trail Amenities” is misleading for the work of the Committee.

-The section does provide documentation for why certain amenities were selected by Harper Houf and guidelines for future amenity selection.

-Staff should rearrange the “Opportunities” section of the Guide.

-There should be two sections: one that outlines opportunities for future selection committees and one that outlines the process used by this Committee when directing amenity selection.

-The Committee should not pick out the amenities but direct Harper Houf in selecting amenities.

J. The “Stewardship” section of the Guide should include “Recommendations”.

K. Any additional changes should be emailed to staff.

IV. Discussion: Trail Design Standards and Guidelines

A. Ken Ackerman presented potential styles of Trail amenities for direction in design.

B. The Committee clarified its role in the Trail amenity selection process.

-Harper Houf will design the Trail and select amenities.

-The Committee will give Harper Houf direction in material, style, color, texture and scale.

C. The Committee agreed that amenities should be consistent in style throughout the Trail.

-Amenities should hint at tradition and history without trying to duplicate it.

-Bright colors should not be used in Trail amenities.

-When possible, the Trail amenities should use and showcase recycled materials.

-Betsy Bostwick read a comment from a local citizen to create a subtle connection to the past and avoid modern-looking amenities.

-Amenities should not look cheap and should be durable.

-Trail design should avoid “cute” historical references. Signs especially should not be printed with script text, but rather something easy to read.

D. The Committee discussed required compliance with the 40-mile loop design.

-Michelle Healy reported that the Trolley Trail is not required to follow the 40-mile loop design by any funding requirements. It would be nice to have some reference so that people know it is part of the system, such as including the logo or other reference to it on maps.

-The Committee agreed that only the 40-mile loop logo would be the only design element included in the Trolley Trail design.

E. The Committee discussed information kiosks that would be at 5 key locations along the Trail.

-These signs could be an opportunity to tie in a sense of community.

-Signs could be two-sided to include a bulletin board.

-Someone needs to maintain the bulletin boards so that they do not get overloaded with flyers or that they do not contain inappropriate material.

F. The Committee discussed which amenities must be purchased “off the shelf”

-The trashcans and bollards should be purchased “off the shelf”.

-Benches and bike racks could be potential projects for artists. The Trail is a narrative that has high points and low points. Art projects can mark the high points of the Trail.

G. The Committee discussed the potential to have the Trolley Trail logo be the first artist opportunity and recommendation for the Guide.

-The Committee agreed that the logo will be a guiding factor for the rest of the Trail design and should be done by a professional graphic artist.

-The Friends of Trolley Trail logo could be redesigned.

H. When appropriate, amenities should be artist designed as long as there is a feeling of consistency.

-Artist designed amenities must be easily maintainable and replaced if damaged.

- Amenities should be consistent but don't have to be exactly alike along the entire stretch of the trail. (E.g. benches might be different on Oak Grove Blvd than in other areas)

V. February 11 Public Review Meeting

A. The Committee agreed that the Public Review Meeting should be an informal discussion of the Guide so far.

-The map and highlighted public art/signage opportunities will be on display.

-Boards containing the key elements of the Guide will be on display for review and discussion.

-Copies of the draft plan will be available as well.

-After about 30 minutes of allowing the public to view the displays, William Wild has offered to give a short welcome and brief description of the charge of the Committee. A question and answer session will follow.

-Staff will arrange for: sign-in sheets, nametags, refreshments, comment cards, and some sort of visual to set Committee members apart.

-The room will be set up so that there are tables around the room with chairs in the middle.

VI. Next Meeting, Other Business, Next Steps

A. Changes will be made to the Public Art Guide and be available for Committee review.

B. An updated draft of the Guide will be presented at the Public Review Meeting.

C. If Committee members are available, they should plan to attend the Public Review Meeting.

D. The next Trolley Trail Art Steering Committee meeting is **February 18, 2009; 4:00-6:00 pm at the Oak Grove Fire Station.**