

Nineteenth Amendment Centennial Committee
October 1, 2019 Meeting
6:00-7:45 PM, Sophie Anastos Conference Room, City Hall, 2nd Floor, Cambridge, MA 02139

Members present: Barbara Berenson, Marian Darlington Hope, Jane Kamensky, Kimberly Sansoucy, Kim Bernstein, Sarah Burks, Tanya Ford

Staff present: Lisa Peterson, Kathy Watkins, Hilary Zelson, Jennifer Mathews

Review and approve August 6th meeting minutes

- Sarah Burks moves approval; Kimberly Sansoucy seconds; approved unanimously.

Discuss site selection feedback and next steps

- Jennifer, Kimberly, and Sarah recap feedback from various groups on potential sites – Joan Lorentz Park Committee and Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Conservation District Commission re Joan Lorentz Park; Cambridge Historical Commission re Cambridge Common.
- Given most recent feedback from Joan Lorentz Park Committee at September 17th meeting, clear that they do not support project.
- Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Association is calling a full meeting of its membership to discuss. MCNA Chair Fritz Donovan has also relayed recommendation that the artwork be sited at City Hall.
- Committee discusses and views images of potential sites. Staff recap discussions to date, pros and cons of the sites, and ways in which Committee responded to them:
 - Not moving forward on Joan Lorentz Park, given opposition.
 - City Hall recommendation is impractical given topography of the lawn and scale of the artwork. Artist would be very limited.
 - Tubman Square – new renderings of the site from DPW; potential to really incorporate the art into the landscape; expanding the square as part of River Street renovation; lots of flexibility for artist.
 - Cambridge Common – need support of the Cambridge Historical Commission; next meeting at which Committee can present is November 7th. This would impact the timing for the Committee to announce finalist artists, but there’s some flexibility built into the timeline so that’s okay.
 - Historical Commission approval process – feedback at last meeting suggested concerns about monument clutter on Common. Sarah Burks explains that Commission approval would look at the location and dimension of the work, likely the materials; but wouldn’t edit *content* of the work.

Discuss RFQ & RFP status

- Request for Qualifications/Call to Artists closed yesterday. Arts Council had good feedback.
- Assuming Committee pursues the Common as the site, it is possible to invite members of the Historical Commission to a public meeting with the artist to see the artwork/proposals.

Committee members discuss preferences on Tubman Square v. Cambridge Common:

- Tanya Ford does not want to rush process; if choosing now, prefers Tubman.
- Other members are torn; see pros and cons of each site. Feel there’s a value to putting “woman on the Common” (Barbara Berenson), but also see opportunity with Tubman Square. Concern is how

to truly make Tubman Square installation into a space people want to visit (Marian Darlington Hope).

- Connection to the Women's Center at Tubman Square; center has gone through many iterations since it began but is still actively providing services.

Presenting to Cambridge Historical Commission

- Committee agrees to pursue CHC support to site on the Common.
- Will present at Thursday, November 7th CHC meeting. Can use images from presentation on modern monuments that Committee viewed previously. Staff will work on presentation and circulate to Committee to review prior to November 7th. Committee members will all try to be present. CHC meeting scheduled for 6PM at Senior Center across from City Hall; staff will update Committee if details change.
- Committee will make informational presentation with direct request for CHC support of the project. Will not have formal CHC approval until there's a full proposal for the Commission to consider; but need a firmer statement from the Commission and can offer CHC/staff opportunity to work closely with the artist on the proposal as its developed.

RFP & Art Jury updates

- Hilary updates Committee on artist application process. Had good response to RFQ – about 80 new or updated profiles in SlideRoom database in response to the call.
- SlideRoom database will be opened to the art jury first, to review applicants and select their favorites. Art Jury will then meet and review each jurists' finalists and narrow down to 3-4 finalists and alternates.
- Art Jury currently scheduled to meet October 23rd, but may need to reschedule until after a site is selected. Hilary will review with Lillian Hsu. Do have some flexibility built into the timeline.
- Jennifer and Sarah will participate in the Art Jury process in a liaison capacity – will not vote on finalists but will be able to discuss and consult with jurists on Committee's thoughts and process.
- Request for Proposals will not be finalized until the site is selected. Current draft circulated; will need updating to add site, reflect change in timeline and clarify other details per Committee's discussion.

Next Steps

- Staff will circulate draft Historical Commission presentation.
- Staff will update RFP for Committee to review at November meeting.
- Next Committee meeting scheduled for November 12th, after November 7th presentation to Historical Commission.
- Pending Historical Commission feedback, Kathy Watkins could ask Tubman Square landscape architect to talk to the Committee.