

NINETEENTH AMENDMENT CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE
Sunday, June 2, 2019 Meeting/Site Visits
9:30-12:00 P.M., Various Locations

Members present: Barbara Berenson, Sarah Burks, Marian Darlington Hope, Tanya Ford, Jane Kamensky, Vanessa Till Hooper, Kimberly Sansoucy, Kim & Sofia Bernstein

Staff present: Lisa Peterson, Kathy Watkins, Lillian Hsu, Jennifer Mathews

- Joan Lorentz Park, at Cambridge Public Library, site discussion
 - [Committee walked property and discussed features/factors to consider re siting art]
 - Would need certificate of appropriateness from Historical Commission, but certificate relates to placement and size of structure not art itself
 - Site speaks to democracy and citizenship; public building for the City, next to high school
 - Preferred location would be section of open space between paved walkways; distinct from the large open space/field on the right of the lawn
 - Second potential location would be left front corner of lawn near walkway and historical structures from old school building
 - Could give artist flexibility on sites
 - Jane Kamensky updated Committee on project between Schlesinger Library and High School to ask public for 19 words about voting, #my19
- North Point Common site discussion
 - [Committee walked property and discussed features/factors to consider re siting art]
 - Nearby streets have been renamed to honor women
 - 8500 residents anticipated in new developments
 - Property will be owned by City but maintained by corporate partners
 - With surrounding development, property takes a bit of imagination: creating new community; green line expansion; proximity to Boston
 - Physical space is steeply banked and smaller than some Committee members anticipated
 - Other side of space offers more accessible alternative
 - Committee generally agreed that while public art could be important feature at site, this particular work re 19th Amendment may not be right fit
 - Committee discussed possibility of multi-site installation, recognizing there are many options for such work but also attendant costs
- In travel between North Point Common and Riverside Press Park, Committee drove by recently renovated McElroy Park on Western Ave. Discussed McElroy Park as example of possibilities when public art is incorporated into re-design of an entire space.
- Riverside Press Park site discussion
 - [Committee walked property and discussed features/factors to consider re siting art]
 - River Street project offers some opportunity for thoughtful incorporation of art
 - Committee observed and discussed existing public art in the space; bronze and stone installation
 - Artwork here should consider existing open space
 - Space currently has a lot of intergenerational use
- Tubman Square site discussion
 - [Committee walked property and discussed features/factors to consider re siting art]

- Site presents options for complete redevelopment and enlarging existing space as part of River Street project, e.g., changing certain street crossing; also presents options for artist when work can be part of a larger project
- Would need to consider existing historical memorial on site
- Offers opportunity for connection with Women's Center
- Site could provide intimacy for the work
- Is close to Central Square
- Traffic on River Street side is very busy and loud; Pleasant Street side has quieter perspective
- Timeline for the art should not be substantially affected by River Street project
- Cambridge Common site discussion
 - [Committee walked property and discussed features/factors to consider re siting art]
 - Existing monuments are predominantly military – Washington, Civil War, Prince Hall
 - Irish Famine monument was a gift to the city and depicts a woman, but she is fictional and not particularly empowering
 - Site would require Historical Commission approval
 - Presents good option for a series/multiple installations because of the space
 - Committee discussed particular location in front of Law School; serves as an entrance/gateway to the Common and is a well-traveled corridor
 - Committee members divided on significance of the Common; some members feel this is the site suffragists themselves would have chosen – entering a male dominated space and claiming position in City center; some members feel Cambridge Common is not truly a community-oriented space in the modern era
- Site visits conclude. Committee to meet next on Tuesday, June 4, 2019 at 6:00 P.M.