

## **PUBLIC ART COMMISSION MEETING**

A regular meeting of the Public Art Commission took place on Wednesday, March 24, 2010, at 5:30 P.M. at the Cambridge Arts Council.

### **The following members were present:**

Miriam Stewart  
Brent Ryan  
Julie Graham  
Cynthia Smith  
Stephanie Boye

### **Staff present:**

Jeremy Gaucher, Public Art Administrator  
Lillian Hsu, Director of Public Art

**Artist Present:** Laura Baring-Gould

### **1) Approve Minutes**

January Minutes: Miriam moves: All in Favor  
February Minutes: Brent moves: All in Favor

### **2) Cambridge Street Project Update**

Staff handout: Proposed Project Summaries. The gallery installation is in progress. Staff noted that each artist/team has worked with staff to develop the in-depth proposals.

Lillian's observations about helping the artists include trying to steer them away from 'adding' elements to the street that already exist and helping them get from the concept to a representation of their idea that people will be able to understand what the result will be if the project is chosen.

Site committee will meet at the end of the end of June 2010. The committee is: Beth Kantrowitz, Carl Fantasia, Charles Aufiero, Donna Keefe, John Arroyo, Kelley Mowers, Matthew Weinberg, Michele Cohen, and Rick Henry.

PAC question: Does staff think this has been a good model for future projects. Answer: Yes, within certain parameters (perhaps good for smaller/pooled percent funds), but it is also scalable. If 1<sup>st</sup> Street project happens, it could be a good model for that.

### **2) Artist Presentation: Laura Baring-Gould / Fresh Pond**

Laura's presentation was accompanied by a Powerpoint with text and images. Staff has requested this presentation to accompany minutes (as of early April 2010, staff has not received that file). Laura reviewed her past work and how her childhood in Alaska and study of science shapes how she approaches this project. Her past work has used natural objects to create man-made lines. She has also worked with copper vessels to collect rainwater and engage visitors with natural cycles. She also showed the Pear project in Dorchester to show how she uses history and works within communities.

Laura discussed her thoughts on the layout of the Northeast sector of Fresh Pond, including that visitors come for “sky and water”, she discussed that the entrances are ‘developed’ as are the areas with parking, soccer field, community gardens in proximity to Neville Manor, but once past that a visitor is in a meadow, up a hill into the woods and past into Lusitania meadow.

Laura’s presentation sited her talks with the FP advisory committee and that she has taken much inspiration from the people that she has met with over the past months. She learned that her original ideas, perhaps bronze plaques at the entrances, were not consistent with what she was hearing. Her inspiration then moved back to the water and the flow of the reservoir and the water cycle. She started to think deeper about Fresh Pond as a basin and site of collected water. Harkening back to her earlier work with water, Laura experimented by placing vessels outdoors to see what happens with this cycle (pictures in powerpoint).

Her concept now is to represent and highlight how the pond is a basin using bronze to show the bathometric contours of the reservoir. She is considering using the edges or other surfaces to create a narrative about the processes and phenomena (plants, animals, etc) around the reservation.

PAC Questions/Feedback:

PAC wonders whether there’s a site near the outer edge of Neville Manor overlooking pond, perhaps near the Ecology Center and close to a walkway. Perhaps the Ecology Center would help to maintain in terms of leaves or debris falling into basin.

Wondering about the height - should be above hip-high as to keep it from being a water bowl for dogs.

Pac likes that bronze will age well and aided by the conservation and maintenance program.

PAC will have another review as proposal develops.

**3) Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 7:35 P.M.