

**Gloucester Committee for the Arts
Minutes of Meeting Held on 28 March 2023
Harbormasters Office**

In Attendance:

Karen Ristuben, Chair
Miranda Aisling, Secretary
Rebecca Reynolds
Rebecca Nagle
David Calvo
Chris Griffith
Mayor Greg Verga
David Fields, Community Development Coordinator
Jill Cahill, Chief Administrative Officer
Susan Kelley, Generous Gardeners
Anne Johnson
Chris Williams, Sculptor

Called to Order at 8:35 am

February Meeting Minutes Approved

Planters on the Boulevard

Susan Kelley, Ann Johnson, Jill Cahill, and Chris Williams are here to share about four planters on the boulevard. The planters will go on either side of the Fishermen's memorial, far enough so that they don't compete with the memorial. The theme of the planters is the ocean so that they can be unifying for everyone in the community. Chris William's idea for the planters is net/catch bags to show what was taken from the ocean. It's all made of bronze so there won't be any maintenance. It will change color, it will end up being the same color as the memorial. All the planters will be a little different, the netting will tie them together as a set. There will be lighting that was already installed as part of the renovations to the fishermen's memorial in 2019.

Generous Gardeners has commissioned Chris Williams for one of the planters. Susan Kelley has been working on funding for a couple of years. There is a line item in the state budget for two additional planters. The Mayor's office is committed to funding one of the planters. Chris Williams will coordinate with DPW to install the planters, which shouldn't be a big project. The planters will go on a granite base which has already been made. The base needs to be pinned down and the planters will be pinned to the base. Rebecca Reynolds brought up a question about security which was discussed to satisfaction.

The intent is that the planters will be there for 100 years as the Memorial has been for 100 years, considered part of the legacy for the Gloucester 400+ project. This year, they aim to have

two pieces done. Chris hand-does every metal piece, they don't go to a foundry. These pieces are lower and to the sides, so they should emphasize the sculpture at the center. Jill Cahill shared that the planters would tie into the concept of the Native American mushroom.

Miranda Aisling asked about the community involvement, Susan Kelley shared that Generous Gardeners has been waiting to share about the project until coming in front of the Committee for the Arts. They have prepared a newsletter to go out after this meeting. Chris Griffith asked if there will be an event or unveiling. Susan has been trying to keep this under her hat based on funding and this meeting. It's important to have the community know what's happening around the space. The planters won't be on the boulevard until there's some symmetry, so until there are two planters. Generous Gardeners own the Triton Statue at Betty Smith Park and have a perpetual landscape easement for the park. Have a contract for liability with the city. Fishermen's Wives Association own the Fishermens' Wives Memorial, there were two non-profits tied to the statue's fundraising. They provide the waxing and care for it.

The 11th Gloucester Garden Tour from the Generous Gardeners is the Saturday after 4th of July, this year it's July 8. There are 18 gardens downtown that will be toured, first Garden Tour downtown.

The timeline for the planters is based on the state funding. The planters will be owned by Generous Gardeners at first, but they would be happy to donate them to the city. Generally, privately owned sculptures are better maintained than city owned sculptures. Maintenance for the Fishermen at the wheel was brought up. The city asked for a recommendation from the Committee for the Arts about how to proceed with ownership.

Arts, Events, and Culture Coordinator Position

An offer has been made to a candidate for the Arts, Events, and Culture Coordinator, Karen Ristuben was part of the second interview and now HR is reviewing. The candidate has worked in the planning department in one of our sister communities. She went to the Museum School and Tufts and has a Masters in Social Design. There were originally 6 candidates, narrowed to 3, interviewed 3. One decided they couldn't do it and it came down to a final decision between two. Greg Ciamatori, Director of the Planning Department, sat in on the interviews and was interested in how the planning department can engage. The job position is leaning more towards the Planning Department. A Request to Hire was sent to the HR Department on Tuesday. Unless the candidate says no, she'll be on board before the next Committee for the Arts meeting.

Memo to the Mayor

No response to the Committee's letter to the Mayor as of yet. Karen Ristuden had a discussion with the Mayor about ARPA funds coming to the Committee for the Arts. Around \$50,000 is allocated for Tablet Rock in general from ARPA funds, which could include the stabilization and a new sign or contextual piece for Tablet Rock. Roger Armstrong's money for the Tablet Rock

stabilization would need to be donated in front of the City Council, it would need to be transferred. David Fields will contact Roger Armstrong after the RFP. David Fields would create a Memo to the City Council to recommend they take money if Roger still wants to transfer.

There is another \$50,000 for other uses from ARPA funding. Potentially \$100,000 coming to the Committee for the Arts. This money is from the America Rescue Plan, post COVID from the Federal Government

Update on Tablet Rock

The Purchasing Agent recommended doing an IFB, an Invitation for Bid, which means there would need to be three bids. No longer doing an RFP for less than \$50,000. The legal department says that DPW needs to oversee the work being done to Tablet Rock, rather than Committee Members, for liability reasons. Rebecca Reynolds spoke with Jim Montgomery, but he is not interested in the job based on the ladder required. Rebecca knows two candidates for sure. The Legal Department will most likely create a Scope of Work that needs to be shopped around to receive three in-depth quotes for the work. David Fields requested someone from the committee look at a final contract.

Community Preservation Committee

Karen Ristuben put in the eligibility form for the Community Preservation Act. The committee came back and said that some of the bullet points from our proposal would be eligible but others won't. They gave us another chance to apply with a re-filling this Friday, which Karen is coordinating. We're applying for \$150,000 for next year, a needs analysis for all of the public art in Gloucester. A City Collections subcommittee met to look at three categories: WPA Murals, Bronze Plaques, and City Owned Sculptures including Man at the Wheel, Joan of Arc, and others. If the money comes through, it would come through in March 2024.

Judith Hoglander is working on the WPA Murals, which are all rolled up under the stage at City Hall. An assessment would be part of this project. Rebecca is looking at the number of Bronze Plaques in the City and City-Owned Sculptures. She shared an inventory done by an intern in 2006 "The Art of Gloucester City Hall," which is a good start. These documents should be shared with the City Archives. Might be just over 100 pieces, not too many. David Fields and the IT Director are looking into a Facilities Management software program, a potential long-term project. Chris Griffith is looking at Art Work Archive

In the upper right hand corner off the stage at City Hall, there is an office for the Committee for the Arts. Rebecca has been going through the file cabinet there. Chris Griffith will scan the PDF of the 2006 intern list. Rebecca Reynolds will connect with the City Archivist to see if they would look at the papers. David Fields would call the Williamstown Art Conservation Center to see if he can track down the 2018 Treatment Plan they did for the WPA Murals. Miranda raised that many of the murals show depictions of Native people made by white artists that we should be sensitive to as we move forward.

Master Plan

The city is closing in on a consultant who will aim to kick-off in June with background research. This new hire could be part of the Master Plan. Could start with a culture planning session in May / June. Meeting with Tom Borrup could give a sense of what a Gloucester Cultural Plan could contain, which would all be part of the Master Planning Process.

Policies & Procedures

Miranda, Phil, and Karen will be meeting tomorrow as a sub committee to look at next steps for the Policies & Procedures document. Rebecca mentioned there is an older document in the Committee for the Arts office that could be referenced.

Frank Davis Portrait

Judith Hoglander is pursuing the next steps with the Frank Davis Portrait. Judith is looking into who donated the piece, which would need to submit a Memo to the City Council about the city accepting the portrait. The CPC didn't deem the Mayoral Portraits historically significant, so the funding of \$1,400 would need to come out of the ARPA funding or somewhere else.

Motion to adjourn at 9:51 am

Next meeting, Wednesday, April 26 at 8:30 - 10:00 am