



**Minutes**  
**3:30PM, November 19th, 2020**  
**Via Zoom**

**1. Call meeting to order by Susan Steffens at 3:30.**

**A quorum was established**

**In Attendance:** Susan Steffens, Kristin Drees, Chelly Hasquet, Abigail St. Lawrence, Jennie Stapp, Margaret Strachan, Wilmot Collins, Kristi Ponozzo, Troy Sampson, Peggy Benkelman (coordinator)

**Excused:** Lou Archambault, Nick Ladas

**Guests:** City Manager Rachel Harlow- Schalk, Dr. G, Brigit (?) public guest.

**2. Approve minutes from October, 2020**

A motion was made to approve the October minutes. Motion seconded. No additions or comments for discussion. Unanimous vote. Minutes approved.

**3. Introduction of City Manager Rachel Harlow- Schalk**

The new City Manager tells the board a bit about herself and looks forward to working with HPAC. The new location within the Facilities department should give the needed support. She will continue to attend the HPAC meetings as time permits.

**4. Discussion of unveiling ceremony for Equity Fountain**

Ron Waterman wants to wait until spring for ceremony – hopefully there will be a COVID vaccine by then. No updates or further communication from Ron.

**5. Update on Boundy Memorial installation**

Kristi Ponozzo (Parks Department) explains some of the 20 comments that the city received regarding the Boundy sculpture. The parks department reached out to the public in a variety of ways: social media, newspaper, sign in the parks. While most responses were positive, the biggest complaint was that the sculpture would take up open space within the park. The Parks department is leaning towards placing the sculpture in the park behind the Civic Center. Margaret Strachan thinks there is not enough visibility there. Chelly Hasquet thinks Wesleyan Park is just fine. Wilmot Collins agrees there should be more visibility. City Manager Rachel H-S asks if there was a public process as to the site chosen. Susan Steffens explains the process (which has been going on for over 2 years). With the Commission's approval, the site of Wesleyan Park was chosen and then the RFP was released early March 2020 via the Parks Department. The Boundy family ultimately chose the park (out of 3 possible locations). While the HPAC voted on the sculpture (the artists were anonymous and a rubric scoring was used),

the Boundys ultimately chose Artist Paul Hogan's guitar – which happened to be in the top 3 scores. Kristin Drees stresses that the nature of the sculpture is interactive, safety over placement of the piece is paramount. Kristi Ponozzo reiterates that the Parks Department has spoken with the artist and devised a plan to incorporate safety. The sculpture will be shorter in height, any gaps where an arm or leg can get trapped will be lessened and the structure will be roped off with signs stating no climbing. The sculpture is interactive in that when a person walks around it, it appears to be moving. There is also signage and musical notes that one can read and touch at the bottom. Kristin Drees says that originally the Boundy's wanted the piece to be along a trail, where a person would come upon it and be surprised. Kristin Drees thinks the piece should be in Wesleyan Park.

A motion was then made by Kristin Drees to have the Boundy Sculpture be in Wesleyan Park. Margaret Strachan seconded the motion. Motion was opened for discussion. A vote was taken and all were in favor, none opposed. The Boundy sculpture will be placed in Wesleyan Park. Kristi Ponozzo will bring the proposal back to the Commission.

#### **6. Traffic Signal Boxes**

Troy Sampson says the invoice to Fast Signs has been paid. Susan Steffens talks about the nice article in the IR regarding the signal boxes. HPAC members say they have received many compliments on the boxes.

#### **7. Update on Rodney Street Traffic Signal Box**

Since there is a delay on the Rodney Street development project, most probably the box will not be moved until next year. HPAC will check back with the City Attorney to follow correct procedure and to see if the Committee is bound to put the wrap on another box. As per Fast Signs, they cannot remove a wrap and use it elsewhere. Once removed it is ruined. So, if HPAC wants to again use that artist's wrap, they would have to pay Fast Signs approximately \$750.

#### **8. Update on Ghost Signs**

HPAC would like to, at the very least, complete one Ghost Sign Restoration next year. HPAC will continue to push for the funds that were guaranteed them in the fall of 2019 at a Commission meeting. Kristin Drees has not been able to reach Patrick (owner of On Broadway) about a Ghost sign on his building. Wilmot Collins said he would reach out, as he also knows Patrick. Wilmot also said he would reach out to Firestone Corporation as his connection is via his mother who worked for Firestone in Liberia, where most tire rubber came from.

Peggy Benkelman mentioned that her last day working with HPAC is November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020. She has enjoyed working with all of you, and hopes Helena continues to promote and have a vibrant public art presence. Peggy will continue to work for the Helena Citizens' Council and will have the same email address should you have future questions.

**9. New Member and New Chairman/Vice Chairman Discussion**

There will be two new members of HPAC as soon as their approval comes through the Commission. They are Amanda Reese and Leah Cupino (artist and teacher at Carroll College). Peggy Benkelman will again try to reach Lou Archambault about end of term/resignation information. Abby St. Lawrence is close to Amy Barrett of Lasso the Moon, and will reach out to her about becoming a member. Susan Steffens talked with Sandy Shull of Birds & Beasleys, but she did not feel she had the time to join HPAC.

**10. Discussion of Funding Ideas for Public Art from Missoula and Bozeman**

The HPAC board feels that funding similar to how Missoula and Bozeman fund their city art committees would be great. The HPAC budget is so small, there is hardly enough money to have any projects. Mayor Willmot Collins will research how monies can be budgeted and utilized in accordance with Federal and State requirements. City Manager Rachel H-S says new revenue brought to the budget should be approved by the Commission. Each city department (e.g. Facilities) has its own budget and HPAC will have to work within those parameters.

**11. Public comment** – None were given.

**12. Meeting was Adjourned at 4:15 PM**

**13. Next meeting December 17, at 3:30pm, 2020 via Zoom**

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