

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. COMMISSION MEETING

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Room 24 – City Hall Basement

5:00 P.M.

ATTENDANCE: Rachel Talbot Ross, Daniel Skolnik, co-chairs; Jan Beitzer, Dennis Crowley, Regina Phillips, Wells Staley-Mays, Simon Thompson, Dawud Ummah, Committee Members; Judith Rosen, City Staff; Nancy Ackers, Portland resident.

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. Rachel Talbot Ross welcomed everyone and gave an update regarding the Bayside Trail meeting she had attended earlier in the day. They received funding from the Portland Public Art Committee to develop a bench project that would place artistic benches along the trail. These benches, particularly any placed within the MLK commemorative space, would be complimentary to our work. Rachel will serve on a panel to select the final benches and therefore keep the Commission apprised and the needs for the MLK space relevant.

Rachel Talbot Ross then gave an update on a meeting she, Dan Skolnik, Judy Rosen and Alex Jaegerman had with Joe Gray regarding the work plan for the MLK commemorative (see attached). There will be 2 Community Forums in February (2/11 & 2/25/2010) for public input regarding the thematic content of the art project. The forums will be publicized in the newspaper, press releases, radio stations, City Line and e-mails to neighborhood organizations, community groups and businesses. Simon Thompson suggested a face book page to attract young people.

An RFQ for art design (request for qualification) will go out in March for a period of 4 weeks. They will be reviewed by an MLK Memorial Oversight Panel which will be appointed in February. In May/June up to four artist/design teams will be provided a stipend and 8 weeks to develop a conceptual proposal.

Councilor Skolnik referenced that \$5,000 per year has been allocated to the MLK Commission so there should be a little under \$10,000 in the budget. The only current expense will be for Daniel Minter, an artist who is working on the MLK Commission's logo. June will be the ribbon cutting for the trail. Dan Skolnik suggested a sign be unveiled at that time stating "Future home of the MLK Commemorative". This suggestion will be brought to the Bayside Trail Committee. In July/August the proposals will be evaluated and a selection will be recommended. In September the selection will be presented to the various committees (MLK Commission, Public Art Committee, Bayside Trail Steering Committee). The final recommendation will go before the City Council in October, 2010. The MLK Commission will launch their commemorative capital campaign on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, January 17, 2011. Discussion followed as to potential fundraising event ideas.

The Commission then selected members for the MLK Oversight Panel. Councilor Dan Skolnik, Rachel Talbot Ross, Dennis Crowley and Dawud Ummah volunteered to be members. Commission members also suggested Alice Spenser from the Public Art

Committee, Alex Jaegerman from Bayside Trail Committee and Daniel Minter as an artist/community representative. These names will go to the Planning Department for review.

Discussion followed regarding a meeting schedule for the Commission. The Commission will be meeting the **1st Wednesday of the month** beginning **March 3, 2010**. The meetings will be from 5:00-7:00 and will be held in Council Chambers, City Hall.

Rachel Talbot Ross and Dan Skolnik encouraged Commission members to attend the community forums being held in February.

Public Comment: Nancy Ackers, a Portland resident, hopes that the trail will be safe and crime free and gave suggestions for speakers at the fundraising events.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Submitted By:

Judith Rosen