

## **Newport Public Arts Committee, February 21, 2013, Home of Frank Geltner**

Chair Catherine Rickbone called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m. In attendance were committee members Sue Valentine, Wyma Rogers, Sally Houck, and Rickbone. Absent were City Staff Liaison Peggy Hawker, Mary Peterson, and Karaen Murphy. Guests included Jeff Berteleit, Parker Ogburn, Frank Geltner, Jurgen Eckstein and Bob Ward.

### Carved Driftwood Proposal

Rickbone acknowledged that committee members had been down to the beach to see a large piece of driftwood that is being considered as a source for public art. She asked Geltner to begin the discussion. Geltner said that after meeting with Historical Society Director Steve Wyatt and City Manager Jim Voetberg, he concluded that the area in front of the future Marine History Center is not an option. Eckstein reported that he thought the project would take at least two years and suggested it might be accomplished with community college art students and a supervising artist.

Eckstein has offered his services without a fee and Road and Driveway would donate the hauling of the driftwood from the beach.

Outdoor venues that might accommodate work on the 16 X 12 X 11 foot piece of redwood include across from Don Davis Park, an area near the Coast Guard Station and the yard of the Yacht Club. Rickbone and Houck will report on viable work venues at the next meeting.

### Committee Business

Rickbone noted that Berteleit is a candidate for the Public Arts Committee and that his application would be addressed at the next meeting.

She also clarified that although the Council has approved a percent for the arts in public projects, there is more work to be done to have the percent for art firmly in place. At this time there are no funds for public art in the City's budget.

Rickbone mentioned that another objective for the committee is to clarify the process of establishing public arts selection panels and criteria.

### Tsunami Dock Foundation Proposal

Rickbone invited Bob Ward to speak next as he had to leave shortly. Ward represented the Newport Tsunami Dock Foundation, a nonprofit group who has an agreement with the HMSC to take the dock to an area in front of the Undersea Garden which is private property. Their intent is to increase awareness of potential tsunamis. The piece would serve as a tsunami interpretative center and possibly sport decorative elements. Ward presented photo renderings to give an idea of how it might look. The dock is about 19 X10 feet and according to Berteleit weighs about 15 tons.

Rickbone indicated that she would ask the City what was expected of the committee in relation to the tsumani dock proposal. The committee listed these concerns: lighting, weight, accuracy and updates of information, aesthetics and oversight.

### Mural Project

Parker Ogburn presented a proposal for highlighting the murals on buildings along the bay front by publishing a brochure and setting up a web site that would guide people to take a walk through the murals. Under the auspices of the Oregon Coast Council for the Arts he has requested a grant from the Oregon Arts Commission for this project that would include young people in 4-H. The web site and brochure are to be maintained by the News-Times. Ogburn counts 27 murals, most on private property.

Discussion included whether the murals themselves are public art and questions about the purview of the Public Arts Committee regarding the highlighting of murals on private property.

Adjourned at 11:00 a.m.