

SACO-BIDDEFORD CULTURAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

Minutes from September 13, 2005

Attendees:

Lynn Bivens	Diane Bowie-Zaitlin	Pam Johnson
Judith Kinsman	Peter Morelli	Ann-Marie Mariner
Diane Noble	Don Sharland	Andrea Strassner
Nora Tryon	David Versel	Rachael Weyand

Meeting opened at 4:00 PM. Andrea Strassner welcomed David Versel as the new Project Director.

Andrea reported that she now has 30 responses to the Discovery Research survey form now, up from last month.

David asked for **ideas in generating additional responses** before October 15, which we have previously set as our target date for 90% completion. Suggestions included:

- Advertise in paper or get article written
- Set up computer time at libraries to fill out forms
- Broaden net—not just residents
- Schools—email to staff?
- Saco Spirit and HOB newsletters
- Chamber newsletter (monthly)
- City website links
- Saco email newsletter (1,800 names)—make webform from it—talk to John Gold
- Needs to be incentive as to “what’s in it for me”—need to make clear why we are doing this and what the benefit is to artist. What are benefits?
 - Cultural revival is good for artists
 - Increased exposure of art and to other artists (sense of community)
 - A lot of potential for cultural richness, want to help cities reach it
 - Our communities are special and needs more pride
 - Integrate arts more into everyday lives—public art, aesthetics
- UNE volunteer fair—could have help from UNE students in recruiting and filling out
- Twin City Expo
- Talk one-on-one with all of the papers—Liz Gold, Josh Williamson, Kevin Wack, Kristen Muszynski

David asked for **feedback regarding major public outreach event in January**. Comments made by committee included:

- Opportunity to get television involved
- Need to have ethnic food
- Brunswick gets creative groups together 3-4 times per year—separate groups for music, visual art, etc.
- Suggestions for the event:
 - Combine music, visual arts and food. Focus on participation.
 - Swing music—Rob Duquette has a group

- Chuck Noe, Another World Entertainment
- Free with suggested donation
- Is McArthur Hall available? Ask Doug Sanford

David asked for volunteers to form subcommittee for this event. Ann-Marie, Diane Noble, Rachael, and Judith said they would be willing to help.

Saco Spirit Report—Ann-Marie gave the following updates.

- David McChesney (Maine Cleaners) is interested in letting billboard be used for public art (25'x12')—could SB Savings be the sponsor? Ann-Marie will be taking issue to her Board on 9/26
 - High profile publicity event—TV coverage
 - Could do recurring annual competition to redesign it
- Ann-Marie needs backing of our group—no objections
- People will drive through downtown to see it.
- “One dollar one vote” competition—to pay for maintenance.
- Bill Thomas (Rosebud) wants to do Welcome to Saco mural on side of building
- Deb Landry wants to make Mutual Theater into community center facility

Focus groups—David discussed planning focus groups to be held in November, one for arts/cultural leaders and one for civic/business leaders. Comments:

- Good way to build image and awareness to arts and culture
- “Litmus test” for strength of arts and culture in the community

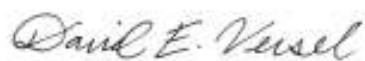
Public Art update by Andrea:

- Bonnie sent letter to Guilford Rail about railroad bridge, but nothing has happened yet
- Concerns about liability—must be painted on the trestle, not attached to it. Guilford seems open to it
- Who is eligible for competition? Local or open? Age groups? If it's a student, you could pair up student with artist.
- Maybe change contest eligibility, theme, criteria each year—first year could be about revitalization of communities
- Printer in Portland does large scale screenprinting for billboards
- Holly Hudon is working on painting blank wall in Biddeford, with each school doing a section of it—ask Rachael about it

Next meeting is Tuesday October 11 at 4PM at Heart of Biddeford office.

Meeting closed at 5:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



David E. Versel