

Provincetown Cultural Council (PCC)

Public Hearing on the Provincetown AIDS Memorial Meeting Minutes

October 10, 2012, 6pm

Judge Welsh Hearing Room, Town Hall, 260 Commercial Street, Provincetown, MA

Present: Tina Trudel, chair; Francine D'Olimpio, Brian O'Malley, Robert Speiser, Grace Ryder-O'Malley

Absent with notice: Judith Cicero, Cherie Mittenthal

In attendance:

Karen Cappotto; Joe Carleo, Executive Director, AIDS Support Group of Cape Cod; Stephen Desroches; Peter Donnelly; Dan Gates, Peer Support Coordinator, AIDS Support Group of Cape Cod; Austin Knight, Chair, Board of Selectmen (attending as a private citizen); Rebecca Matarazzi; Tim McCarthy; Pasquale Natale, former PCC member; Marian Roth, former PCC member; Gordon Siegel; Julie Simms; Myra Slotnick; Michael Wright, former PCC member.

Meeting called to order at 6:03pm.

Brief statements from PCC members thanking public for attending. Brian O'Malley read a prepared statement regarding his support of the memorial.

Presentation of history of project via prepared Powerpoint by Chair Trudel. Excerpt of letter to selectmen as presented at BOS meeting 9.10.12 (see attached) expressing the PCC's willingness to work with all interested parties to see this memorial come to fruition. Excerpts from letters submitted for the public hearing from PCC member Judith Cicero explaining her support of the library location and from Arts Commission chair Steven Borkowski on behalf of the commission, voicing their support of any location other than Town Hall.

Presentation of each proposed location with images, pros & cons as compiled by the PCC.

Alden Street & Bradford Street:

Difficult location regarding access, woman hit by car there recently

Not supported by any speaker.

Freeman Street (Old Library), 330 Commercial Street:

Concern about not enough room, want the memorial to be a destination and this place already has a lot going on

Not supported by any speaker.

Provincetown Public Library, 356 Commercial Street:

Fitting location as the film about the AIDS epidemic, Safe Harbor, is located inside the library plus this summer the library worked with the Swim for Life, displaying the buoy and flags; space is visible and simplistic; sunny, landmark building, educational institution makes it a fitting space, great location for families to come together, to spark a conversation; ability to watch the documentary inside if you do have questions following looking at the memorial; easy access; close to town center; parking close by; centrally located but also not directly on the street, allowing for a contemplative, reflective space; fitting as AIDS itself is about education and learning.

Supported by 8 speakers.

Pine Grove at Jerome Smith Rd & Route 6, 16 Jerome Smith Road:

Too far away, too noisy, not great access

Not supported by any speaker.

Suzanne's Garden, 608 Commercial Street:

While distance from center of town is an issue to consider, it offers a private, reflective, beautiful space.

Not as public or accessible as other spaces. Already in honor of Suzanne Sinaiko.

2 in support, 1 opposed.

Town Hall, Ryder Street side, 260 Commercial Street:

Accessible, similar to the idea of the other monuments already located there, makes sense to have this here as well, reinforces the town's commitment to this epidemic. Provides a quiet, contemplative location with trees, importance of the memorial is emphasized by the centralized location. Likes the weight that this location gives the project, as if the town is 'owning' this history, fitting as other significant events in history are memorialized here.

Doesn't feel town hall is a contemplative place.

Feels torn about the location as it is seen as a bit hard, but also that it makes the memorial that much more important and powerful if it were located here.

Question raised by Chair Trudel about the moratorium placed by the Arts Commission of the placement of any new memorials on Town Hall property. Attendee suggested that if this is the case then there should be a public hearing to discuss the moratorium.

2 in support, 1 opposed, 1 waivering.

Waterfront Memorial Park, MacMillan Wharf, Ryder Street Ext:

Trees may already be dedicated to people with AIDS, small space, may already be marked for the Fisherman's Memorial.

1 opposed.

Completion of presentation. Final thoughts from attendees. PCC emphasized seeking public support and to keep our commitment to the voters of Provincetown who approved this project.

Public hearing ended 7:05pm. PCC meeting continued.

Brief discussion of public hearing with members. No votes taken.

Next meeting set for October 22 at 5pm, prior to meeting with the Board of Selectmen to take place October 22 at 6pm.

Meeting adjourned at 7:23pm.

Attachments:

Letter to the Board of Selectmen, dated September 4, 2012

Slides from the AIDS Memorial Public Hearing Powerpoint

Respectfully submitted,

Grace Ryder-O'Malley

Vice-Chair & acting Clerk