

Culture and Heritage Advisory Council – Meeting Minutes

Metro Parks Tacoma Headquarters

Wednesday January 20, 2016

I. Roll Call and Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Zach Powers at 5:35pm.

Present: Kristen Murphy, Heather Joy, Angela Jossy, Commissioner Aaron Pointer, Zach Powers

Staff: Melissa McGinnis, Mary Tuttle, Kristi Evans

Guests: Amy McBride, Mija McKnight

Excused: Dick Dorsett

II. Review and Acceptance of October 2015 Minutes

Angela made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Seconded by Heather and approved unanimously.

III. Old Business

a. Public Art Plan

- i. Amy distributed copies of the framework for the new Public Art Plan. The plan will be introduced to the Park Board on January 25th. The first reading of the resolution to accept the plan is scheduled for February 8th with the second and final reading on February 25th.
- ii. Angela suggested that MPT plan a celebration for the opening of the first art project funded by the plan and invite all past members of the Advisory Council to help celebrate the success.
- iii. Zach asked about priority for local artists. Amy responded that would be a decision by the individual project's art steering committee. She also pointed out that the first project moving forward – Waterfront Phase One – does include a lead artist as well as opportunities for up to three local artists.
- iv. Aaron asked about People's Center. Amy responded that this project which is being jointly funded by MPT and the City of Tacoma will include dollars from both organizations' 1% for art.
- v. Zach noted that he is pleased that the plan includes a partnership with Amy and the City of Tacoma's Art Program staff. Their expertise and involvement in the art projects will be an asset to the program.
- vi. Aaron asked for clarification of the Park Board's involvement in the Art Plan process. As presently written, the Park Board will approve the guidelines and principles of the plan and the staff will oversee and implement the plan.
- vii. Kristen commented that she likes the broad definition of art in the plan and that both permanent and temporary art displays. She also likes the idea of partnering with other organizations on art projects.
- viii. Aaron especially liked the comprehensive planning for places or types of facilities with multiple entities.
- ix. Amy noted that in response to an earlier concern expressed by Aaron regarding private construction on park lands. The subject is under discussion with the Executive Cabinet of MPT and it may come forward as a policy.

- x. Angela raised the question of Conflict of Interest on art projects. Can Advisory Council members apply for the upcoming art projects/commissions? Melissa will pursue an answer to this question before the next meeting.
- xi. The Art Plan mandates that all capital projects over \$5,000,000 include an art component. At the present time MPT is actively developing plans for three projects of this size. A representative from the Advisory Council has been assigned to serve on the Art Steering Committee for each project.
 - 1. Heather Joy – Waterfront Phase 1
 - 2. Angela Jossy – Point Defiance Aquarium
 - 3. Zach Powers – Eastside Community Center

In addition, Angela is presently serving on the WW Seymour Conservatory Expansion Steering Committee and she will also serve on the Conservatory's Art Steering Committee once the final project is defined.

b. W.W. Seymour Botanical Conservatory Expansion Plan

- i. Melissa outlined the basic need for additional space at the Conservatory for restrooms, expanded floral displays, office, relocated gift shop and classroom/workshop space.
- ii. The Council reviewed four options for an expansion to the Conservatory.
- iii. Aaron asked about the need for improved parking. The designers have been meeting with the city to discuss this issue but no specifics have been determined yet.
- iv. Mary asked about the capacity of the new facilities. Kristi responded that all four contain essentially the same square footage even though they look very different. Exact capacity numbers have not been determined.
- v. No specific design plan was preferred over the other but the dome design was favored.
- vi. Kristen noted that as the Culture and Heritage Advisory Council, the group should also be considering the impact on the historic original conservatory as well as the historic park. All four designs overwhelm the scale of the original and do not complement the symmetry of the original building.
- vii. Kristi noted that a public meeting is planned for January 21st where more details and drawings will be presented. Council members are invited to attend that meeting and encouraged to add their comments to the on-line survey.
www.ConservatoryFuture.org.

IV. New Business

a. Election of Officers:

- i. After a brief discussion, Angela nominated Zach Powers for the Chair position. Zach was approved unanimously. Zach then nominated Angela for the Vice-Chair position. She was also approved unanimously.

b. New Advisory Council member recruitment

- i. Zach led a discussion on member recruitment. He asked Amy if there were more applicants to the Tacoma Arts Commission than the TAC could accept. When Amy replied that they do have more applications than openings, Zach asked if Amy could let those people who are not chosen for TAC know about the possibility of serving on the MPT Culture and Heritage Advisory Council.

- ii. Melissa noted that she sent out a blanket email to the Pierce County Heritage members recruiting for new members and Mary did the same with the local art community.
- iii. A lively discussion ensued on actively recruiting for wider diversity among the council's membership and the importance of intentional recruitment. Members will be following up with individuals and organizations to expand the diversity of the group.

V. Board and Staff Liaison Report

- a. Melissa noted that new Go Guides and Activity Calendars were available for MPT's upcoming winter/spring programs.
- b. Next month Jeremy Woolley, Project Manager for the new Eastside Community Center, will provide the Council with an update on that project.

VI. Good of the Order

- a. Zach asked if it would be possible for MPT to provide light refreshments for Advisory Council meetings since they occur during the dinner hour and many folks come straight from work. Melissa will see if that funding is available.
- b. Heather noted that new SpaceWorks applications are due in March.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20pm.