

## Culture and Heritage Advisory Council – Meeting Minutes

### Metro Parks Tacoma Headquarters

Wednesday April 20, 2016

#### I. Roll Call and Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Chair Zach Powers at 5:30pm.

Present: Silong Chhun, Katy Evans, Carol Goforth, Angela Jossy, Heather Joy, Maija McKnight, Andrea Michelbach Commissioner Aaron Pointer, Peter Stanley, Zach Powers

Staff: Melissa McGinnis, Mary Tuttle

Guest: Rebecca Solverson

Absent: Britt Board, Laura Bradley, Dick Dorsett, Kristen Murphy, Maria Pascualy

#### II. Review and Acceptance of February 2016 Minutes

Katy made a motion to accept the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Carol and approved unanimously.

#### III. Old Business

##### a. Public Art

- i. People's Center: Rebecca gave a brief overview of the latest public art project – a mural on the outside wall of People's Center. It is a partnership between the City of Tacoma and Metro Parks Tacoma.
  1. The project has a short time frame so that the art will be completed when the new People's Center pool opens in the fall of 2016. The artist will be chosen from the city's mural artist roster which has approximately 20 artists on it at this time. The first meeting of the art steering committee for this project will be May 2<sup>nd</sup> with the artist interviews scheduled May 16<sup>th</sup>.
  2. Both Katy and Andrea volunteered to serve on the steering committee for the project leading to a discussion on how the Advisory Council would select representative for various projects when more than one member is interested.
  3. In this instance, Andrea deferred to Katy as Katy has lived in the Hilltop area and has strong community connections in that neighborhood.
- ii. In the future, it was decided that when more than one Advisory Council member is interested in a specific art steering committee, each member will be given a couple of minutes to explain why they are interested in the project. The members will then vote for who they think is most qualified for that particular project.
- iii. At the last meeting of the Council, Zach suggested that Silong transition to the Council representative for art at the new Eastside Community Center due to his connections to the community. Now that Silong has been appointed a member of the Council, the group officially made the change.

##### b. W.W. Seymour Botanical Conservatory Update

- i. Angela described the changes to the Conservatory expansion that resulted from the last public meeting and responses to nearly 300 surveys on the subject. The Conservatory expansion was reduced in size by approximately 1,000 square feet

and the new design includes various elements of the original proposals as well as some new design elements.

- ii. One new element of the latest design is a screening wall in front of the addition reflective of the historic facades that once covered the three entrances to the historic Conservatory. Suggestions have been made to make this new wall a “living green wall” to soften its impact. Carol noted that this would also help the new addition blend into the park better.
- iii. Melissa explained that any addition to the Conservatory needs to meet the Secretary of Interior’s Standards for Historic Preservation. Not only is the Conservatory governed by these standards but all of Wright Park is too. The park is listed on national, state and local historic registers.
- iv. Katy noted that MPT needs to make sure that the reductions in size do not go too far and jeopardize future needs for additional programming and education space. She also noted the loss of the library from the original design and expressed concern that it is needed.
- v. Peter commented that the seating area outside the addition should face the park rather than the road.

#### **IV. New Business**

##### **a. Mission Led Comprehensive Program Plan (MLCPP)**

- i. Mary led a discussion on the MLCCP as it relates to Culture and Heritage. The development of the plan involved a scientific survey, staff program inventory, research on Tacoma demographics and projected growth, meetings with focus groups and an on-line survey. The results of the plan will help guide future budget allocations and program offerings.
- ii. Zach noted that the four planning areas as defined by the plan are too large, especially the northwest.
- iii. Mary noted that in one area, staff will need to dig deeper into the survey results and continue to survey program participants to gain all the information needed for specific program areas. With the present survey results, it is sometimes difficult to differentiate between something people need and something people want.
- iv. Katy asked if the surveys were administered in a variety of languages. If not, they may not have captured input from Tacoma’s diverse communities.
- v. Arts staff will be evaluating the styles of dance programs offered in each quadrant to ensure that the right classes are being offered.
- vi. Some programs identified as “needs” are being offered so the problem may be marketing efforts to make sure that MPT is marketing correctly to the right audiences.
- vii. Since the plan indicates that essentially all heritage program occurs in the northwest quadrant (mainly Fort Nisqually), Aaron asked was the fact that school tours come from the other three quadrants considered in this report?
- viii. The question of economic barriers to program attendance as well as geographic barriers was raised. Mary noted that MPT does offer a scholarship program to help offset economic barriers. Katy asked if MPT would consider developing a grant program similar to the one’s offered by the City’s Arts Commission and Landmarks Commission to help support partners in these areas.

- b. 2016 Work Plan and Advisory Council Goal Setting
  - i. Zach suggested that the Council table this topic until the May meeting due to the time and place it as the first agenda item so that adequate time is allocated to this discussion.

**V. Board and Staff Liaison Report**

- a. Aaron reported that Executive Director Jack Wilson has submitted his letter of intention to retire in September; the Eastside Community Center received a \$3 million donation from the Names Foundation; the opening of Kid's Trek at Northwest Trek was a huge success; and, the City of Tacoma is commissioning a traffic study of Ruston Way to determine ways to ease traffic along the waterfront.
- b. Melissa noted kudos to two Council members.
  - i. Heather was described as "an angel from heaven" by the city's economic development office for the help that she and Spaceworks are providing to the Manitou artists group.
  - ii. Maria helped come up with a name for the new stormwater treatment facility in Point Defiance Park utilizing Chinook Jargon (an Indian trade language) – skookumchuck or strong waters.

**VI. Good of the Order**

- a. Andrea invited everyone to the Museum of Glass on April 21<sup>st</sup> for a program on Marbled Murrelets sponsored by the Audubon Society
- b. Heather announced that Spaceworks is in the process of securing a location on South Tacoma Way for artists include the Manitou Art Group.
- c. Angela shared her dream of an underwater sculpture park off Ruston Way for scuba divers enjoying the area.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm.