

Culture and Heritage Advisory Council

Metro Parks Tacoma Headquarters

Wednesday May 18, 2016

I. Welcome and Introductions

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

Present: Britt Board, Laura Bradley, Carol Goforth, Angela Jossy, Heather Joy, Maija McKnight, Andrea Michelbach, Kristen Murphy, Maria Pascualy, Commissioner Aaron Pointer, Zach Powers, Peter Stanley

Staff: Melissa McGinnis, Mary Tuttle

Excused: Silong Chhun, Katy Evans

II. Review and Acceptance of April 20, 2016 Minutes

- a. Laura made a motion to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Kristen and approved unanimously.

III. Old Business:

- a. Public Art: There were no meetings in the past month concerning ongoing public art projects. Melissa shared a note from Naomi Strom-Avila of the city's art department regarding the People's Center mural project that was discussed at the April Advisory Council meeting. Even though they hoped to start the project last month, they have decided to refine how this public art project will run to ensure that artists of color and artists specifically from the Hilltop area are included in the project. They will be working with the Steering Committee on a proposal to develop a training/mentorship-type program so that the lead artist would work with multiple artists to develop a mural for the building as well as other arts opportunities inside the building. A full report on the project will be presented next month.

IV. New Business:

- a. 2016 Work Plan and Advisory Council Goals: Zach led a lively discussion about goal setting and developing a work plan calendar for the remainder of the year.
 - i. Melissa noted that each year the Council is asked to develop a list of goals. Since this Council started the year with only four members, one of the goals already established was to recruit new members. This goal has been met with the Council now having full membership of engaged, interested community members.
 - ii. A second goal for the year has been to help Metro Parks define the process necessary to implement the 1% for Art Program.
 1. The art policy and accompanying Art Plan have been adopted by the Board of Park Commissioners.
 2. Council members are on all the art project Steering Committees established thus far.
 3. Council members discussed the importance of working to ensure that there is a robust public outreach process when a "Call for Artists" is sent

out for new projects to ensure a diversity of artists and artistic mediums. Maria noted the importance of an open, unbiased solicitation process to ensure a diversity of artists. Once the applicants have submitted their proposals, the steering committee needs to focus their efforts on art samples and proposals to ensure the best artist for the project.

4. MPT staff will work with the City of Tacoma Art Administrator, Amy McBride, who is on contract to oversee the implementation of the MPT Art Plan to establish written procedures for the Art Steering Committees. This will help to inform Advisory Council members of their specific roles, responsibilities and anticipated time commitments when they volunteer to serve as the Advisory Council representative on an Art Panel.
- iii. Zach mentioned the need for the Advisory Council to better understand Metro Parks and how it operates, how it is funded and how financial decisions are made. He suggested that the Council schedule a separate retreat date where all the Advisory Council members could get to know each other better and learn about each other's strengths and interests in the areas of art and heritage.
 1. There was general agreement with the idea of a retreat.
 2. Angela suggested a Culture Crafting Workshop to help lead the discussion.
 3. Zach will send out a survey to determine which day or time will work best for the membership.
 - vi. Work Plan
 1. Presentations on current MPT projects and initiatives during Advisory Council meetings are important. Before beginning, presenters should inform the council what response is required. Is it simply informative? Do they want the council to review and evaluate? Are their outside assignments associated with the presentation? Does the subject matter relate to Culture and Heritage?
 2. Monthly meetings – MPT Headquarters or other sites/facilities around the Park District?
 - a. Kristen and Peter noted that they like the site visits and the visits help them better understand the program/facility.
 - b. Laura noted that sites visited should be relevant to Culture and Heritage or subjects that the Council is being asked to weigh in on.
 - c. Zach noted a concern that the off-site visits often run longer than meetings at headquarters.
 - d. Melissa suggested that the Council plan a site visit to the Conservatory in Wright Park since it is the focus of a project asking for Advisory Council feedback. (Melissa will check with Conservatory staff to schedule a convenient date.)
 3. Better electronic communication – Melissa offered to forward information to the Council members when it arrives rather than waiting for the next meeting to help keep everyone up-to-date on Metro Parks' activities.

- b. Metro Arts Business Plan
 - i. Mary led a discussion of the Arts Programs at Metro Parks (with lots of great transitional graphics!)
 - ii. In addition to offering a wide variety of programs, the Arts Programs are very successful with a 79% cost recovery rate.
 - iii. Mary explained how she used information from the recent Mission Led Comprehensive and Program Plan (MLCPP) to help better understand her program and the community's needs.
 - iv. Melissa noted that one other outcome of the recent MLCPP was the recommendation that Metro Parks' Mission Led Program 'Culture and Heritage' change their name to 'Arts and Heritage'.

V. Board and Staff Liaison Report

- a. Aaron noted that Point Defiance Park is going to be undergoing a lot of disruption and changes over the next year as major capital projects begin – roundabout at the entrance, new trail and bridge from Ruston Way to the park, development of the park area near the Tacoma Yacht Club, the zoo's new aquarium and the Tacoma School District's new building for SAMI students.
 - i. With all this work planned traffic and parking are a major concern and MPT has just begun a major traffic study of the park to try and get ahead of the situation.
- b. Aaron also mentioned that a large bronze statue of Ivan the gorilla is going to be placed at the zoo. The cost is being covered by private fundraising efforts. Aaron asked why a presentation on this project has not come before the Advisory Council as many members were not aware of it.
- c. Aaron noted that Doug Frasier prepares an informative report each month for the Capital Improvements Committee. He asked if Melissa could get a copy and distribute it to Advisory Council members to help keep them informed.

VI. Good of the Order

- a. Heather invited everyone to attend Spaceworks – NEON – an art party fundraiser. It will be held on Saturday June 11th at 6:00pm and all ages are welcome. For more information or to purchase tickets go to: www.spaceworksNEON.com.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10pm.

The next meeting will be held on June 15, 2016 at 5:30pm at the W. W. Seymour Botanical Conservatory in Wright Park.

Submitted by,
Melissa McGinnis