

Culture and Heritage Advisory Council

W.W. Seymour Botanical Conservatory – Wright Park

Wednesday June 15, 2016

I. Welcome and Introductions

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

Present: Britt Board, Laura Bradley, Silong Chhun, Katy Evans, Carol Goforth, Heather Joy, Kristen Murphy, Maria Pascualy, Commissioner Aaron Pointer, Zach Powers, Peter Stanley

Staff: Melissa McGinnis

Guests: Kristi Evans, Amy McBride, Rebecca Solverson, Tyra Shenaurt

Excused: Angela Jossy, Maija McKnight, Andrea Michelbach

II. Review and Acceptance of the May 2016 minutes

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

III. Old Business

a. Public Art

- i. Public Art Plan – Amy distributed copies of the official Metro Parks Art Plan and reviewed the process that she and Metro Parks staff go through to determine the scope of work for the art on each project and how the call-to-artists is determined.
- ii. People’s Community Center – Amy distributed information about the Artists of Color Mural Training Project and Outdoor Mural for People’s Community Center and a copy of lead artist Christopher Jordan’s resume. Christopher will be hired as a trainer for up-and-coming artists. The trainees will work under the direction of Christopher to design and paint a community-responsive permanent public mural for the exterior of the Community Center. The Art Steering Committee for this project will review Christopher’s proposal before the project starts.
- iii. Art Steering Committees – Rebecca reviewed the basic roles and responsibilities of Art Steering Committee members and how they are involved with the process of reviewing applications, interviewing finalists, reviewing preliminary design proposals and reviewing the final design proposal.
- iv. Lincoln District Creative Conference: The Tacoma Arts Commission is offering a workshop and \$500-\$5,000 grants for creative community projects in the Lincoln District. The workshop will be held Saturday, July 30, from 10 am – 2p.m. at the Lincoln District Project Office (750 S. 38th St. in Tacoma). Lunch will be served.
 1. Any Tacoma resident with a creative idea for a community project is welcome to attend the workshop and apply for the grant, including neighborhood activists, teachers, creative professionals in the arts (visual artists, filmmakers, designers, performers, musicians, etc.), do-it-yourself entrepreneurs, storytellers, and practitioners of folk art, outsider art, healing arts, culinary arts, martial arts, or gardening arts.

Workshop attendees will learn more about community engagement and creative projects, see inspiring examples, take a neighborhood walk, meet possible collaborators, and participate in brainstorming sessions for their own projects.

2. Those interested in attending the free workshop on Saturday, July 30 can RSVP to Asia Tail at atail@cityoftacoma.org or (253) 591-5206. Grant applications are due by 4 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 15, 2016.

- b. Retreat Follow-up: Zach reported that he has been unable to find a day when the majority of advisory council members could get together for a retreat. Following a brief discussion, it was decided to wait until early 2017 to try and schedule a retreat. In the meantime, MPT staff members will work to develop a schedule of informational sessions during the regular meetings to help everyone better understand the workings of the organization. If there is any topic that members would like to know more about just let Melissa or Mary know.

IV. Board and Staff Liaison Reports

- a. Melissa distributed a schedule of the *Crafts of the Past* artists at Fort Nisqually, the Point Defiance Park Visitor Center's summer activity schedule and the Metro Parks' summer calendar.
- b. Aaron discussed all the upcoming work at Point Defiance Park – new aquarium, new park at the peninsula, new pedestrian/bicycle pathway from Ruston Way, and the beginning of construction of the Science and Math Institute's Learning Center at the zoo.

V. New Business

- a. W.W. Seymour Botanical Conservatory Preservation and Expansion Plans.
 - i. Conservatory Supervisor Tyra talked to the council about the programs offered at the Conservatory and the need for additional space to accommodate popular programs and the general public as well as providing the Conservatory with some basic amenities such as an accessible public restroom and adequate office space.
 - ii. Project Manager Kristi outlined the process thus far to design an expansion for the Conservatory to meet these needs and the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation. Kristi noted that the first priority is to make needed repairs to the historic structure.
 1. Kristi showed preliminary designs for an expansion that includes space for a new gift shop outside the historic structure (thus allowing the present gift shop space to be utilized for plant displays); a "green wall" to compliment the facades that once graced all three entrances to the Conservatory that will shield the addition from view along G Street; an underground area for public restrooms, office space, new utilities, and a small gathering space; and, a second glassed conservatory below the height of the historic Conservatory dome to display additional plants and serve as a space for programs and lectures.
 2. The Council then moved outside the Conservatory to get a better understanding of where the additions would be placed and how they would impact the Conservatory as well as Wright Park.

VI. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday July 20, 2016** at the headquarters of Metro Parks Tacoma – 4702 S 19th Street.

Submitted by,
Melissa McGinnis