

Culture and Heritage Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday September 21, 2016

I. Welcome and Introductions

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

Present: Britt Board, Laura Bradley, Katy Evans, Heather Joy, Andrea Michelbach, Kristen Murphy, Maria Pascualy, Commissioner Aaron Pointer, Zach Powers

Staff: Melissa McGinnis, Mary Tuttle

Guests: Amy McBride, Leah Melber, Fred Ramey

Excused: Silong Chhun, Carol Goforth, Angela Jossy, Peter Stanley

II. Review and Acceptance of the August 17, 2016 minutes

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

III. Old Business

a. Public Art

i. People's Center Mural

1. Amy reported the mural is on schedule to be finished in time for the dedication on Saturday September 24th at 2:00pm.
2. More works are planned for the interior of the center but they will come later.

ii. Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium

1. Amy reported that the contract is now executed with the two artists chosen for the commission.

iii. Eastside Community Center

1. Amy reported that the Call to Artists for the first phase of the project has gone out. There has been only one application received thus far but Amy assured the Council that is normal and most come in much closer to the deadline
2. Zach commented that it is a tough application requiring specific skills sets above and beyond artistic ability. Amy agreed but noted that there are qualified individuals in the community and for this phase of the project the qualifications listed in the application are what is needed to do the job well.

iv. General comments

1. Maria reminded the group about the conversations at prior meetings about including poetry and other written or spoken word art forms a part of our public art discussion.

IV. New Business

a. Deaccession of Bear Sculpture at PDZA

- i. Fred Ramey, Operations Manager at PDZA, explained the background history of the carved Polar Bear sculpture at the entrance to the zoo, its repair history and the desire to deaccession it from the MPT Cultural Assets Inventory for reasons of public safety.

- ii. Maria commented that she is uncomfortable making a decision concerning the appropriateness of deaccession without knowing more about the artist who carved the sculpture.
- iii. Zach asked about keeping it in storage to await future restoration
- iv. Amy commented that the city's deaccession policy calls for a piece to be returned to the artist or destroyed upon deaccession approval.
- v. Maria asked if PDZA had explored the option of donating the piece to another public institution which would be a preferable option
- vi. Kristen asked if it could be placed somewhere else in the zoo where children would not be able to climb on it (a stated concern by PDZA)
- vii. Aaron asked where it is now (the PDZA maintenance yard)
- viii. Fred noted that in its present condition, the statue needs to stay inside and that PDZA has no plans to incorporate the statue into any indoor exhibits
- ix. Britt commented that no matter what happens to the statue, it should stay active in MPT's digital archives (It is included in the MPT Historic Assets Inventory on Past Perfect and will remain a part of those records even if deaccessioned.)
- x. Maria and Katy stated that they need more information before making a decision. Specifically, more details about the artist, explore options to transfer to other public agencies or some other MPT facility, and details about past repair efforts and cost to repair/restore today.
- xi. In general, the council wants to make sure they have more detailed information about the object being proposed for deaccession so the vote was tabled until more information is available.
- xii. General consensus is that MPT will work with the city to formalize the process of deaccessioning/accessioning art work and add more detailed procedures to accompany the Deaccession Policy.

b. AMOCAT Award

- i. Zach reminded the council that Metro Parks Tacoma will be receiving an Art Patron Award at the AMOCAT Awards on September 29th. (all members should have received an invitation) He encouraged the council members to attend.
- ii. Zach also asked a question about when the name change recommended in the Mission Led Comprehensive Program Plan would go into effect – changing the name of the council from the Culture and Heritage Advisory Council to the Arts and Heritage Advisory Council.
 - 1. Aaron will discuss with interim Executive Director Shon Sylvia to see how quickly this change can be made.

c. MPT Advisory Council Summit

- i. Since the annual summit for all of the MPT Advisory Councils will be held on Tuesday October 18th just one day before the regularly scheduled meeting of the C&H Advisory Council, Zach made a motion to cancel the regularly scheduled October meeting on the 19th.
- ii. The motion was seconded by Laura and approved unanimously.

d. Art Exhibit at Swan Creek Park

- i. Mary gave the council some background on the recently installed public art display at Swan Creek Park.
- ii. The exhibit was grant funded and under the direction of local artist Lisa Kinoshita.

- iii. Unfortunately several of the pieces were vandalized. The largest has been removed and placed in safe storage by MPT until the artist can come to Tacoma and pick it up.

e. Advisory Council applicant – Leah Melber

- i. Zach welcomed Leah and asked her to share her background with the Council as well as why she wanted to become a member.
- ii. Leah has extensive and varied museum and teaching experience. She is presently the Audience Engagement Manager for the Washington State History Museum.
- iii. After the interview, Leah left the meeting so the council could discuss.
- iv. Even though Leah has a good, appropriate background for the council, several members pointed out that the council already has numerous representatives from the north end of Tacoma as well as numerous representatives from local museums.
- v. The council has discussed the importance of diversity on the council so decided to table a decision on Leah's application until they have an opportunity for broader outreach for new members.
- vi. Katy noted that the MPT Advisory Council application does not have any sort of equity and inclusion statement. She also noted that the MPT Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility Policy is not easily found on the MPT website.

V. Board & Staff Liaison Report

- a. Aaron reported the official retirement of Executive Director Jack Wilson and the Park Board's intention to name Shon Sylvia the interim Executive Director. He also mentioned that long-time manager of Northwest Trek and the Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium, Gary Geddes, has announced his retirement after 35 years with Metro Parks.
- b. Melissa reported that the Planning Department is working on the next biennium's capital improvement projects to establish priorities and goals. Two areas of particular interest to the council are:
 - i. Fort Nisqually – where the focus for the next biennium will be needed replacement of the Clerk's House (or volunteer building), repairs/replacement of the Sales Shop, and repairs/replacement of the period kitchen as outlined in the recently completed Master Plan for the fort.
 - ii. Seymour Conservatory – planning will continue working with the design team to further refine and develop the plans for the first phases of the Conservatory expansion with specific emphasis on the addition of an accessible public restroom to support basic programming needs.
- c. Mary shared information about a new After-school Youth Sports League.
 - i. MPT is partnering with the Tacoma School District, the YMCA and the Boys and Girls Club to offer school-based recreational sports leagues to elementary school students.
 - ii. A major benefit of this program is that students will not have to leave school to participate eliminating transportation challenges for many parents.
 - iii. The program will offer soccer, basketball, flag football and baseball.

VI. For the Good of the Order

- a. Laura invited everyone to attend the Tacoma Revels' Bridge of Glass sing-along on September 22nd at 6:30pm as they sing out summer and sing in fall.

- b. Britt invited everyone to attend the opening of *30 Americans* on Saturday September 24th at the Tacoma Art Museum.
- c. Kristen passed out flyers about a new program at the University of Puget Sound – *Nurtured by Music*. This early childhood class is designed for children newborn to three years old. (Kristen also announced that her second term on the Council will soon expire so November will be her last meeting with the group.)
- d. Katy distributed guides and tickets for the upcoming Tacoma Film Festival October 6th – 13th which is presented by the Grand Cinema. For details visit: www.tacomafilmfestival.com.

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

The next meeting of the Culture and Heritage Advisory Council will be **November 16, 2016**.

The annual Metro Parks Tacoma Advisory Council Summit will be held on October 18th. There will be no Culture and Heritage Advisory Council meeting on October 19th.

Submitted by - Melissa McGinnis