

## Arts and Heritage Advisory Council

### Meeting Minutes

Wednesday January 18, 2017

#### I. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Andrea Michelbach at 5:35pm.

Present: Britt Board, Laura Bradley, Silong Chhun, Carol Goforth, Heather Joy, Andrea Michelbach, Commissioner Aaron Pointer, Peter Stanley

Staff: Melissa McGinnis, Mary Tuttle

Guests: Rebecca Solverson

Excused: Katy Evans, Angela Jossy, Maria Pascualy, Zach Powers

#### II. Review and Acceptance of November 16, 2016 Minutes

Laura made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Seconded by Carol and approved unanimously.

#### III. Old Business

##### a. Public Art

##### i. Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium Mural Call-to-Artists

1. Rebecca reported that they will be using the City of Tacoma's muralist roster to choose an artist for the project. The artist needs to be able to render realistic versions of various sea life to accompany interpretive text.
2. Carol volunteered to serve as the Advisory Council representative for this project. The first meeting to review applicants is scheduled for February 8<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 to 10:30.

##### ii. Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium Jellies Call-to-Artists

1. Rebecca reported that the Call-to-Artists for this project will be open to Washington artists. They are looking for glass art inspired by the new jellyfish exhibit. The piece has a \$30,000 budget.
2. Laura volunteered to serve as the Advisory Council representative for this project. The first review of applications is anticipated for April.

##### iii. People's Center Portable Works Call-to-Artists

1. There will be two aspects of the People's Center project. One will be open to only members of the Hue Collective for an oral history and visual arts element that compliments the work already undertaken in preparation for the mural.
2. A second call-to-artists is being sent out to solicit applications from artists interested in producing 2-dimensional art pieces for the center.
3. Katy will continue to serve as the Advisory Council representative for these additional projects at People's Center

##### iv. E.T. Sculpture Update

1. Andrea noted that the Call-to-Artists for the E.T. memorial sculpture resulted in over 20 applications. The committee has reviewed the applications and narrowed the selection process down to three finalists who will interviewed by the committee.

- b. Deaccession – Polar Bear Sculpture at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium
  - i. Melissa reintroduced the proposal to deaccession the Polar Bear sculpture at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium. The first time this was discussed the Council members asked for more background on the artist and records management aspect of the process. Metro Parks (MPT) is now working with the Deaccession Consideration form that the city of Tacoma’s Arts Commission uses when determining whether or not to remove a piece of their collection.
  - ii. The form includes:
    - 1. Background on the artist (Joe Tougas)
    - 2. Information on the piece (*Bear and Cub*, commissioned in 1983, made of wood, original cost \$8,000)
    - 3. Photographs (Melissa showed pictures of the damage and past repairs)
    - 4. Reason for consideration (primarily safety – MPT Risk Manager assessed the piece and determined that it was no longer safe to allow children to climb on it and it needed to come off display)
    - 5. Artist has been contacted and he is not interested in repairing it again nor does he want it returned.
    - 6. Information on the piece in MPT’s Historic and Cultural Assets Inventory will continue to retain information about the piece in its Inactive Files after it is removed.
  - iii. Following a brief discussion Laura made a motion to recommend deaccessioning *Bear and Cub* from the MPT Historic and Cultural Assets Inventory. The motion was seconded by Peter and approved unanimously.
  - iv. Further discussion ensued on the best way to dispose of the piece once it is deaccession.
    - 1. Rebecca stated the city’s policy is to destroy any artwork deaccessioned from the city’s collection to ensure that the artist’s vision and the piece’s integrity are protected.
    - 2. Britt noted that the Tacoma Art Museum’s deaccession policy does not require destruction; however, when pieces are sold the proceeds must be used to purchase new art work.
    - 3. Melissa reported that the MPT Deaccession Policy allows for destruction, sale or transfer to other agencies. Before deciding how to dispose of the piece, MPT will explore the options and determine the best course of action for the piece and the agency.

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

- a. Advisory Council 2017 Work Plan
  - i. Andrea began the discussion by reviewing the Work Plan guidelines in the Advisory Council handbook and 2016’s Advisory Council Goals.
    - 1. Several of the goals are still applicable for 2017
      - a. Strive for greater diversity on the Advisory Council
      - b. Ensure that an Advisory Council member participates on all art committees
  - ii. Melissa shared MPT’s 2017/2018 Departmental Priorities and Funding Considerations for advancing the 3 Pillars of Sustainability.

1. Aaron pointed out that one of MPT's 2017/2018 goals is to ensure accessibility – economic, physical, transportation, etc.
- iii. A lively discussion ensued concerning topics of interest for the Council.
  1. Presentation from Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium staff on the upcoming *Washed Ashore* exhibit.
  2. Presentation on the recording studio plans at Eastside Community Center.
  3. Mary suggested that Kodi Smith Doty be invited for a presentation on the varied art programs associated with the specialized recreation program.
  4. Peter voiced support for additional site visits in 2017. Suggested locations include Titlow Lodge, Swan Creek and Browns Point.
  5. Peter also noted that MPT's departmental priorities list a variety of education initiatives. He would like to know more about what kind of educational programming is offered by MPT.
  6. Andrea suggested revisiting the idea of a Council retreat or summit.
- iv. In the interest of time, Andrea tabled the conversation and proposed refining ideas in February. Melissa will begin to develop a calendar of presentations based on MPT staff availability.
- b. Second Term for Zach Powers
  - i. Zach's first term on the Council expires in February 2017. MPT's Advisory Council rules allow for individuals to serve two consecutive terms on any one council.
  - ii. Peter made a motion to recommend Zach for a second term. The motion was seconded by Carol and approved unanimously.

**V. Board and Staff Liaison Report**

- a. Aaron reported that the capital projects at Point Defiance Park were going well.
- b. Melissa encouraged members to visit Fort Nisqually's newest exhibit *Saving Fort Nisqually*, the story of why and how Fort Nisqually was relocated from its original location in DuPont to Point Defiance Park in the 1930s. The exhibit will be on view until April 29<sup>th</sup>.
- c. Mary let the council know that MPT is now recruiting for supervisors for both the STAR Center and Norpoint Center.

**VI. Good of the Order**

- a. Carol brought copies of Historic Tacoma's Coloring Book and a copy of the great "letter to the editor" written by Zach Powers about MPT programs.
- b. Heather invited everyone to 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at the Spaceworks Gallery and 1120 for new exhibits.
- c. Heather also reported that she is still working with the Manitou artists trying to find a space for them to lease.
- d. Rebecca announced that the city is now accepting applications for the city's poet laureate. It is a two year commitment.
- e. The city is also accepting applications for the Tacoma Artist Initiative which funds individual artists.
- f. Britt invited everyone to the Tacoma Art Museum's new exhibit of American portraiture. It is the first time these portraits have been displayed outside of Washington, D.C.

- g. Laura invited every to attend the February 4<sup>th</sup> dance at the Old Post Office as a fundraiser for Revels.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10pm. The next meeting will be held on February 15, 2017 at the Metro Parks Headquarters at 4702 S 19<sup>th</sup> Street.

Submitted by,  
Melissa McGinnis