

Arts and Heritage Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday February 15, 2017

I. Welcome and Introductions

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

Present: Silong Chhun, Katy Evans, Carol Goforth, Heather Joy, Andrea Michelbach, Maria Pascualy, Commissioner Aaron Pointer, Zach Powers, Peter Stanley

Staff: Melissa McGinnis, Jim Lauderdale

Guests: Rebecca Solverson

Excused: Britt Board, Laura Bradley, Angela Jossy

II. Review and Acceptance of January 18, 2017 Minutes

Peter made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Seconded by Andrea and approved unanimously.

III. Old Business

a. Public Art

i. ET Sculpture at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium

1. Rebecca reported this project is on a fast track to meet the zoo's anticipated dedication date of August 2017. Twenty-two artists applied and the Art Steering Committee chose Matthew Gray Palmer from Friday Harbor. A proposal is anticipated by the end of March.
2. After a thoughtful discussion the Art Steering Committee decided that due to the size of the piece, it will be cast at a foundry in Oklahoma.

ii. People's Center Update

1. Rebecca reported that 49 artists applied for the portable art portion of the project. The final choice will be made by the Art Steering Committee by the end of February.
2. Whitney Brady and Tiffany Hammond of the Hue Collective were chosen to develop the Oral History portion of the project.
3. Rebecca reported that the mural is "done-ish" but awaits drier weather to complete the finishing touches.

iii. Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium Mural

1. Rebecca reminded the group that this artist was chosen from the city's mural artist roster and that the parameters for the mural are very specific and need to be realistic interpretations of the marine life.
2. Carol describe the decision making process and was pleased when Maria Jost was chosen for the project. Maria lives at Salmon Beach and works as an adjunct teacher at SAMI in Point Defiance Park.

b. 2017 Advisory Council Work Plan – Zach/Andrea

- i. Zach began the discussion with a conversation about how a work plan for the Council should be developed when so many of the items that come before the council are pre-determined by staff and Metro Parks initiatives.

- ii. Melissa noted that the Council could establish some basic goals – such as a diverse council membership – and help staff identify topics/areas of interest that need individual presentations.
 - 1. Andrea commented that a better understanding of “diversity” is needed – age, gender, area of residence or work, etc. to help guide the discussion.
 - 2. Zach noted that the Art Commission establishes positions for specific skills and backgrounds. A spot could be reserved for a youth representative, perhaps from SOTA.
 - 3. Katy added that the Advisory Council application should be changed to reflect the directives of the MPT Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility Policy to help encourage broader applicant diversity.
- iii. Peter commented that the council may want to develop strategies for how they can be most effective in their work with Metro Parks.
- iv. Zach asked if someone from the city’s Arts Commission could offer a training at an upcoming Council meeting on things like, how to evaluate artist submissions for projects, what should council members be looking for, and what is “public art”. Melissa will follow up with Amy and Rebecca about this.
- v. Andrea asked if there was a way for council members to share digital files concerning Advisory Council business. Board Max was suggested as well as the file sharing options used by the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation. Melissa will follow up with MPT’s IT department.
- vi. Melissa asked if there were any field trips that the Advisory Council would like the staff to plan for during the year. Swan Creek and Point Defiance Park’s Waterfront Phase One upgrades were suggested.
- vii. Melissa will draft a tentative program schedule of monthly topics for the next meeting for review by the council.

IV. New Business

- a. Fort Nisqually Strategic Plan
 - i. Jim Lauderdale, Fort Nisqually Museum Supervisor, explained that Fort Nisqually is in the process of preparing for accreditation from the American Alliance of Museums.
 - ii. As part of that process, the museum must show evidence of a variety of board approved documents including a Strategic Plan.
 - iii. Jim shared the proposed Strategic Plan with the Advisory Council. Focus areas include Vision, Mission, Administration, Marketing, Development, Education, Interpretation, Building and Ground Preservation and Collection Management.
 - iv. Following a brief discussion, Zach made a motion to recommend approval of Fort Nisqually’s Strategic Plan by the Board of Park Commissioners. The motion was seconded by Katy and approved unanimously.

V. Board and Staff Liaison Report

- a. Aaron reported that the capital projects at Point Defiance Park are going well.
- b. The holding facility for the new aquarium is being built and it is anticipated that the baby hammerhead sharks will arrive in April to become acclimatized and get ready for the new aquarium’s opening in 2018.

- c. The Park Board will be reviewing the Metro Parks Pricing Pyramid (which governs the cost for participation in programs, classes and events) to ensure that it is fair and equitable for all areas of the community.
- d. Metro Parks is investigating language in the new ST3 legislation that provides funding for after school programs.
- e. Aaron reported on a presentation he recently attended that illustrated the changing demographics of zoo goers and perceptions of zoo. The Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium and Northwest Trek will be investigating new branding identities with stronger ties to the education and conservation message of zoos.

VI. Good of the Order

- a. Rebecca reminded everyone that the Call-to-Artists for the Jellyfish artwork at the aquarium closes on March 6th. Please encourage glass artists to apply.
- b. Andrea encouraged everyone to join in the "Great Backyard Bird Count" this weekend. There will be great hands-on activities for all ages at Adriana Hess Wetland Park and Audubon Center.
- c. Heather noted that the Sacred Art exhibit at Spaceworks will close this weekend. The final event with a marketplace of Native American art.

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

Submitted by,
Melissa McGinnis