

Arts and Heritage Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday March 15, 2017

I. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Chair Zach Powers at 5:31 pm.

Present: Katy Evans, Carol Goforth, Andrea Michelbach, Maria Pascualy, Commissioner Aaron Pointer, Zach Powers, Peter Stanley, Britt Board, Laura Bradley

Staff: Mary Tuttle

Guests: Karen Povey, Rebecca Solverson & Kodi Smith-Doty

Excused: Silong Chhun, Heather Joy, Angela Jossy

II. Review and Acceptance of February 14, 2017 Minutes

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

III. Old Business- Public Art

a. ET Sculpture at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium

1. Artist selection has been completed- Matthew Palmer from Friday Harbor. Artist made some clay sketches after spending time with the staff and on site.
2. Matthew will be building the model up in his studio at Friday Harbor, which will require the group to go up to his studio and see the final sculpture before it goes off to the Foundry.
3. Andrea shared how difficult the process was to select which clay model was selected. The split happened because there was a group who wanted a "welcome to the zoo" pose and another one who wanted it to be more educational.
4. Questions about the make -up of each of the selection groups. Outside of Andrea and artist Frank Terrill, the make-up of the group was exclusively staff.
5. Katy added that she thought it would have made a difference with People's Center if there would have been staff involvement in a good way.

b. Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium - Mural

1. Rebecca showed photos of Maria Jost's work.
2. Carol shared that everyone was happy with the decision.

IV. New Business/ Presentations

a. Washed Ashore- Karen Povey

- The exhibit is made of garbage that has washed ashore in Oregon. It was created to highlight the issues with pollution in the marine environment and serve as a way to educate the public. The exhibit opens April 22nd. Entire process is volunteer produced.

- Karen shared a power point with images of some of the sculptural pieces that will be included in the exhibit. The pieces are large scale (ex: Gertrude the Penguin 9 feet tall & Sea Jelly 15ft tall)
- Pieces will be more concentrated than when the exhibit has been at other zoos.
- Karen shared the oceans really have the biggest problem with marine trash. Plastics are the primary pollutants; we are relatively protected in the Puget Sound area.
- 80% of the plastic trash in the ocean has its origin on land; most people think it is from fishing gear or ships- a huge amount washes through storm water systems.
- The #1 item that is being collected right now from the new storm water system at Pt. Defiance that is cleaned out from the grates are straws.
- Micro-plastics are also a source of pollution. Fleece is made of poly-carbons and when it is washed, it goes straight from the wash and into the oceans.
- Personal care products are chocked full of micro-plastics.
- Micro-plastics are going to be federally outlawed in 2018.
- It's not the clean-up, it is cutting it off at its source.
- PDZA & Trek no longer sell any single use plastics throughout their parks; marketing campaigns located near water fountains and throughout the parks to educate the public.
- Questions about LEED facilities and sustainability within Metro Parks.

b. Specialized Recreation Art Program – Kodi Smith Doty

- Kodi gave an overview of her program and cited the 500 participants throughout the year, who are duplicated.
- The program offers social skill building, through TPS and their transition program, as well as culinary art, soccer, music, trips, etc...
- "Create and Take" is the series of art classes that are offered through her program. She shared work samples and several photos both with guest artists and programs she teaches herself.
- Commissioner Pointer asked about the percentage from inside the city limits as compared to those who are within the County. Kodi shared that 55% of the program participants are from outside of Tacoma and within the County. Last year, the program reduced the non-resident fee and also helps program participants outside of Tacoma without transportation.
- Maria asked how many people were turned away from the program? How many apply and how many do you turn away? 250 applicants each quarter and there are about 550 opportunities they are unable to provide because of funding.
- Andrea asked what the volunteer needs were. Kodi cited sports as one area and then Cinderella Ball.

c. Work Plan

- Diversity Statement- Zach brought up the question of to recruit and gather more members.
- Andrea also mentioned the diversity statement on the MPT website seemed buried.
- Laura shared that she is on another board where they surveyed the group as a starting place, with the idea that would help identify a plan for what was needed in terms of recruitment.
- Peter shared wanting to look at different types of professions.

- Zach asked Rebecca to confirm the Arts Commission has different spots reserved for a certain number of working artists, educators, those within the industry, etc...
- Rebecca shared the Arts Commission is looking at a ways to plan for how they might increase diversity within that group.
- Britt cited there are diversity statements already out there, and wondered if a little R&D was needed to look at other organizations and bring those to the table to use as spring boards for discussion.
- Zach would like to take steps within 2017 and achieve a diversity statement and a plan for how the Council goes about recruitment by the end of the year.
- Commissioner Pointer offered that he was glad this was even a topic of discussion.
- Andrea would like to bring a draft of a survey (Laura will work with her on this) to see how the group feels about it.
- Maria questioned whether or not other organizations, even if they have a diversity statement are successful.
- Rebecca mentioned the Seattle Arts office is doing good programming work that is also diverse.
- Zach offered up that he did his Capstone project on the lack of diversity within boards and commissions- City of Oakland taken this on and the issues with diversity on commissions and has helped them carve a lot more ownership pf the policy making and civics process. He offered up perhaps having City of Seattle come down and talk about it- or that there should be a brainstorming work shop to tackle it.
- Mary offered up the GIS presentation about diverse recruitment that MPT already has which pertains to diverse recruiting for job positions.
- Rebecca asked when the Council wanted to have a “Public Art 101” training for the members and let members know that each project was a little different and so there really wasn’t going to be a prescribed way to have a training.
- Katy offered up that a good way to perhaps start the training is for the members come in with a list of questions that Amy could trouble shoot and answer, so that it is more of a discussion, rather than a formalized training.

V. Board and Staff Liaison Report

- a. Commissioner Pointer mentioned the bridge (Jack Wilson Way).
- b. The Assistant Executive Director position has been offered to Pete Mayer and he has park connections in his background- his grandfather was Aaron Titlow. Pete has extensive involvement in Parks.

VI. Good of the Order

- a. Andrea - Noah Stryker (who traveled the world looking at bird species last year is coming to Tacoma and will be hosting a talk) is coming to Tacoma on April 12th – they are being sold on the website.
- b. Revels is having a “pub sing” at B Sharp on March 22nd. Pugetsoundrevels.org
- c. Silong mentioned in his email that his gallery opening is tomorrow night.
- d. Brit mentioned the artist who painted the lead work, “Miss Everything”, from the Outwin show will be on site at the museum at 5pm on Thursday.

- e. Katy mentioned the Grand is playing movies from around the world about sister cities and that they are also producing a diversity festival. There are over 45 films booked at the Grand.

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

Submitted by,
Mary Tuttle