

Arts and Heritage Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday April 19, 2017

I. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Chair Zach Powers at 5:30 pm.

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

Staff: Melissa McGinnis, Matthew Keough

Guests: Claire Keller-Scholz, Lane Sample, Rebecca Solverson

Excused: Angela Jossy, Heather Joy, Andrea Michelbach

II. Review and Acceptance of March 15, 2017 Minutes

Zach made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Seconded by Britt and approved unanimously.

III. Public Art

a. Oak Tree Park Final Proposal

- i. Rebecca provided background on the goals of this project and the artist Clark Weigman.
- ii. Clark has come up with a variety of art projects for the park under the theme of "Free, Fly, Flow, Flume"
- iii. Art elements will include tree(s) with bark painted blue; birdhouses on decorative platforms and built in partnership with the Audubon Society and Mount Tahoma High School; original water themed large-scale photographs in the windows of the waterworks building; and, large rocks split in two reminiscent of the flume line that ran through the park.

b. Waterfront Artist-in-Residence Scope

- i. Rebecca explained the background of this project. As part of Adam Kubys art brief for the park, it was suggested that Metro Parks work with the students at the Science and Math Institute (SAMI) on a collaborative piece focusing on the toxicology and science associated with the ASARCO site.
- ii. \$50,000 has been budgeted for an artist to work with SAMI's art instructor Mary Mann and the SAMI students to develop an art piece for the park. There are funds for manufacture and installation of the piece in the park.
- iii. Katy asked if this would be one piece of several pieces. This has not been determined at this time. Metro Parks would like to leave that up to the discretion of the artist and students.

c. People's Center Portable Art

- i. Rebecca and Katy discussed the 19 separate pieces of art that will be purchased by the city and hang in People's Community Center.
- ii. Pictures of each piece were shown and brief background information was provided on each artist. For some artists, this will be the first time their work is displayed publically.

- iii. Britt asked about curation of the pieces. Since the art work is being purchased by the City of Tacoma, the pieces will be curated and maintained by the city's art program staff. Metro Parks staff members who work in the building will be trained on proper care of the pieces while they are on display.
- iv. Since there is also an oral history component to this project, it was suggested that the artists be interviewed to capture the inspiration for their work in their own words to share with the public.

IV. Special Presentations

a. Heritage Education

- Claire Keller-Scholz kicked off the presentation with a brief background on the history of Fort Nisqually and how the fort was moved to Point Defiance Park from its original location in DuPont.
- Lane Sample discussed the variety of education programs offered at Fort Nisqually such as guided educational tours, camps, classes and events.
- Claire discussed her work as the curator at both Fort Nisqually and Metro Parks. In both capacities she has developed on-line resources to the artifact collections to provide more background on the fort's artifacts as well as Metro Parks' historic assets. Coming soon will be on-line access to Metro Parks' extensive historic post card collection.
- Claire also serves as the editor for the Fort Nisqually Foundation's magazine *Occurrences: Journal of Northwest History*.
- Melissa then outlined her responsibilities in the area of public heritage education – public speaking, interpretive signage throughout the parks and responding to public inquiries on specific aspects of Metro Parks' history.
- Advisory Council members responded with a variety of questions concerning diversity of volunteers and visitors to Fort Nisqually. Lane outlined ways that Fort Nisqually works to broaden the cultural diversity of both groups. Claire described the fort's upcoming exhibit – *From the Islands to the Inland Sea* – which focuses on the influence of the many Hawaiian employees of the Hudson's Bay Company and their impact on the area. The exhibit will be on display in the fort's Education Building from May 13th through September 11th.

b. Fort Nisqually Ethics Policy Update

- i. Sample explained that the initial review of governing documents by the American Alliance of Museum's Accreditation Committee pointed out the need for a revised Ethics Statement for Fort Nisqually. More detail was requested in various areas of the fort's governing policies.
 - 1. Maria and Silong commented that that had read the document and were pleased with the level of detail and specifics.
 - 2. Zach made a motion to recommend approval of the revised Ethics Statement as written. The motion was seconded by Laura and approved unanimously.

V. Business Discussion

- a. Recognizing the challenge of adequate time during regular meetings to thoroughly discuss and develop a diversity statement for the Advisory Council, Zach suggested that

a work group made up of interested Advisory Council members meet outside the regular meeting time. Zach offered to host the meetings at his house. The first meeting will be held on Wednesday May 3rd at 7:30pm for all interested in participating.

- b. Zach asked the members to provide a direct charge to this ad hoc committee to write a diversity statement for Metro Parks Tacoma's Advisory Councils.
- c. Maria asked what is the intended result of this effort. Zach shared the Tacoma Arts Commission Diversity Statement. He would like to see the Advisory Council's diversity statement highlight the importance of diversity to the council.
- d. Zach also pointed out that Laura has developed a preliminary survey of Advisory Council members to get a better understanding of their backgrounds and experience. The survey will be refined at the ad hoc meeting and sent to all members.
- e. To help reinforce the Advisory Council's commitment to diversity, it was suggested that promotional information about the art purchased for People's Community Center include statements about the council's support for the project.
- f. Melissa asked if the group would like to see the presentation prepared by Metro Parks GIS staff member Jaclyn Layton concerning city-wide diversity and Metro Parks hiring practices. There was support for the idea. Melissa will coordinate with Jaclyn to find a date in the near future for her presentation to the Advisory Council.

VI. Board and Staff Liaison Report

- a. Commissioner Pointer commented that the major projects associated with the most recent bond issue are underway – Point Defiance Park's Waterfront Phase One, the new Point Defiance Aquarium and the new Eastside Community Center. He also reminded everyone that Parks Appreciation Day is April 22nd. Come help clean up your favorite park.

VII. Good of the Order

- a. Zach noted that he is now working for Evergreen State College.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm. The next meeting will be held on May 17, 2017 at the Metro Parks Headquarters at 4702 S 19th Street.

Submitted by,
Melissa McGinnis