

Arts and Heritage Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday May 17, 2017

I. Welcome and Introductions

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

Present: Britt Board, Carol Goforth, Angela Jossy, Heather Joy, Maria Pascualy, Commissioner Aaron Pointer, Zach Powers, Peter Stanley

Staff: Melissa McGinnis

Guests: Rebecca Solverson

Excused: Laura Bradley, Silong Chhun, Katy Evans, Andrea Michelbach

II. Review and Acceptance of April 19, 2017 Minutes

Maria made a motion to accept the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Heather and approved unanimously.

III. Public Art

a. Jellies at Point Defiance Aquarium

- i. Rebecca provided information about the selection process for the artist chosen for the glass art at the Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium's new jelly fish exhibit.
- ii. Laura was the Advisory Council representative on the selection panel.
- iii. Nine eligible submissions were received and the committee chose to interview the top three.
- iv. The panel chose artist Kait Rhoads from Seattle for the commission. Kait's artistic talent and personal interest in ocean ecology combined to make her the best choice for this project.
- v. Rebecca showed several examples of her work.

b. Point Defiance Aquarium Art Update

- i. Rebecca announced that due to an inability to meet contract deadlines, the contract with Ball-Nogues for the art installation in the new aquarium was cancelled.
- ii. Fortunately, the person who came in second with the art selection panel for this project, Gordon Hueter, is still available and interested in the project. Hueter was a close second in the initial review and the selection panel agreed with the change.
- iii. Rebecca has prepared a new contract and hopes to have Hueter on-site to meet with the zoo/aquarium staff and contractor by the end of the month.
- iv. Because of the work already undertaken by Ball-Nogues, Hueter's budget for the project will be reduced by approximately 10% from the original scope of work.
- v. Hueter is from Napa, California. Maria asked how the decision is made to choose out-of-state artists over Washington artists. Rebecca explained that the Call-to-Artists included Washington, Oregon and California artists. The selection panel did interview some Washington artists but the selection panel still chose the Californian as best artist for this project.

- vi. Melissa noted that Council members have the opportunity to review and comment when the Art Scopes and Call-to-Artists come before the Council. This is where and when the decisions are made to restrict the call to local artists or open it to regional artists for a specific project.

IV. Business Discussion

a. Work Plan Diversity Statement

- i. Zach led a discussion on the need for a diversity statement to help guide the council. A unified diversity statement will help the council when interviewing potential new members as well as provide a lens for the council to apply to all their work.
- ii. Zach noted that he was challenged coming up with a draft statement for the group to review but asked for the council members to help by providing key words about what diversity means to them. Ideas included: geographic diversity, cultural diversity, different art sensibilities, articulate values around diversity, making people feel welcome, etc.
- iii. It was suggested that the council bring in speakers from organizations who have had success in changing the makeup of their organization
- iv. Zach will contact the Tacoma Arts Commission to see how they went about developing their diversity statement and see if someone from the Commission can come and talk to the Advisory Council.
- v. Melissa noted that we now have two pending applications. The applicants will be invited to the next meeting to meet the Council and learn more about what we do.

V. W.W. Seymour Conservatory Update

- a. Melissa updated the Council on the ongoing plans for the Conservatory.
- b. The Council reviewed drawings of the new restroom and storage facility that will adjoin the existing conservatory.
- c. This project will go out to bid on May 30th with a bid opening on June 20th. It is anticipated that the project will begin on August 1st and be completed by the end of November.

VI. Board and Staff Liaison Report

- a. Commissioner Pointer reported that he had just returned from a visit to the new National Museum of African America History and Culture in Washington, D.C. In addition to being a fabulous museum, Aaron noted how art was incorporated into the landscape outside the building as well as inside the exhibits, and how people positively responded to the art.
 - i. Melissa noted that this is what we anticipate happening with the new Eastside Community Center. Artists were hired to work with the designers/architects to develop an Art Plan to guide placement of art inside and outside the new community center.
- b. Melissa shared a document illustrating Metro Parks Tacoma's 2016 end-of-year revenue and expenses. The good news is that MPT spent less than the budget and earned more than projected in revenue for a budget surplus.
- c. Melissa distributed literature on a variety of MPT programs and activities.

VII. Good of the Order

- a. Zach helped Heather promote NEON, a fundraising event for Spaceworks. The event will be held June 10th. Get your tickets now by visiting Spaceworks website.
- b. Heather also reminded the group that May 18th is Third Thursday and encouraged visits to their gallery.
- c. Angela commented on the lack of any Art Walk coordination for all the local galleries and shared news of a new art project featuring pianos – painting pianos to create works of art as well as musical instruments.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50pm. The next meeting will be held on **June 21, 2017 at Swan Creek Park** near the site of the future Eastside Community Center. (Driving directions and parking information will be sent prior to the June meeting.)

Submitted by,
Melissa McGinnis