

Arts and Heritage Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday June 21, 2017

Swan Creek Park

I. Welcome and Introductions

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

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

Staff: Melissa McGinnis, Mary Tuttle

Guests: Molica Chau, Rebecca Solverson

Excused: Maria Pascualy, Zach Powers

II. Review and Acceptance of May 17, 2017 Minutes

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

III. Council Business Discussion

a. New applicant to the Advisory Council

- i. Andrea introduced Molica Chau to the council members and asked each council member to introduce themselves and provide a little background on why they are on the council.
- ii. Andrea then invited Molica to tell the council a little bit more about herself and why she would like to be on the council.
 1. Molica is presently employed as an instructor for the YMCA but is also a freelance artist whose work has been featured in several local exhibits. She has developed a variety of art programs for children Pre-K through 5 years old.
 2. In her application Molica noted that she would like to dedicate part of her time to changing negative perceptions about certain communities (she was born on Hilltop and presently lives in the Salishan area) through art and community engagement.
- iii. Council members welcomed her to the meeting and provided additional background on the roles and functions of the Advisory Council.

IV. Public Art

a. E.T. Statue Update

- i. Rebecca provided a brief background on the E.T. project. The steering committee was able to visit the piece in progress at the artist's studio on Friday Harbor before it was sent to be cast in bronze.
- ii. Andrea noted the added benefit of this steering committee is that it included a field trip and that it was helpful to understand the scale of the piece as well as the details involved to make sure that the statue includes all ET's specific features.
- iii. The tentative date for installation is September 18th.

- iv. The artist hopes to have a maquette (*A scaled-down version or model of an intended work such as a sculpture or mural*) of the piece available for a Park Board meeting in July.

b. Eastside Community Center Art Plan

- i. Rebecca shared copies of the draft of the art plan for the center as presented to the steering committee on June 20th.
- ii. Some of the concepts included in the plan are the importance of multiculturalism and multilingualism. Students involved in the process supported art that reflected the flags of the many nations from which the residents of the community have come. The eastside is Tacoma's most diverse neighborhood. Angela cautioned that any art involving the flags needs to be inclusive for all countries of origin.
- iii. A large-scale free-standing art piece is recommended for the exterior as well as an indoor mural.
- iv. They would also like to include a piece reflective of the history of the site and genesis of the project.
- v. Andrea asked if the artists preparing the art plan (Chris and Kenji) are tracking the amount of time it takes to develop such a through, community-based plan.
- vi. Silong noted that he has been working with Chris and Kenji to introduce them to eastside artists interested in getting involved with the project.

c. People's Community Center

- i. Katy reported that all 19 pieces of art have now all been purchased and are in the process of being properly framed and mounted for display in the center.
- ii. The steering committee saw a presentation on the proposed oral history component of the project and it was very well received. Katy will work with Naomi Strom-Avila to try and schedule a similar presentation to the Advisory Council.
- iii. Katy emphasized the need to celebrate this project and the local artists with a party/grand opening once the art is installed.

V. Board and Staff Liaison Reports

- a. Aaron reported that Metro Parks is working to complete the funding package for the new Eastside Community Center. The Center is projected to cost \$31.1 million. The new center is expected to be complete and open by September 2018.
- b. Aaron also reported that the projects are all going well at Point Defiance Park with an anticipated opening of the bridge and pathway linking Ruston Way to Point Defiance Park expected to open late summer or early fall of 2018.
- c. A parking and circulation study is underway for Point Defiance Park to help develop ways to provide safer pedestrian access to the park and manage some of the parking challenges. In the meantime, Aaron encouraged everyone to try the new Downtown to Defiance shuttle.
- d. Melissa distributed copies of maps for Swan Creek Park and the Swan Creek Mountain Bike trails.
- e. Mary noted that Will Jordan, the brother of artist Chris Jordan who is working on the Eastside Community Center Art Plan, is working with Metro Parks and the Tacoma Housing Authority at Bayside Terrace to offer training and workshops for youth in the areas of song writing, audio recording and performance. This program will fit in well with the planned recording studio in the new community center.

VI. Tour of Swan Creek Park

- a. Mary led the group on a tour of Swan Creek Park beginning at the Gathering Place and large community garden, through a portion of the mountain bike trail and over to the site of the new Eastside Community Center. The new center will work closely with the existing First Creek Middle School to provide program space and shared parking.

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

Submitted by,
Melissa McGinnis