

Arts and Heritage Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday July 19, 2017
Metro Parks Tacoma

I. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Andrea Michelbach at 5:40 pm.

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

Staff: Mary Tuttle

Guest(s): Tiffany Hammonds

Excused: Silong Chhun, Carol Goforth, Angela Jossy, Heather Joy, Zach Powers

II. Review and Acceptance of June 21, 2017 Minutes

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

III. Council Business Discussion

a. Election of new member to the Advisory Council

- i. The group discussed whether or not they had enough people to cast a vote for approval of the new prospective member, Molica Chau. There is a quorum.
- ii. Andrea asked the group who had met Molica to discuss impressions.
 1. All had favorable comments. Britt had one comment and reservation because the council was getting arts heavy. The group also discussed the diversity statement/work and how Molica allows for the council to be more diverse in its membership.
 2. Laura made a motion to invite Molica onto the council and Katy made a second motion. The rest of the group voted unanimously to recommend that Molica be appointed to the Council by the Park Board. (Molica was born on Hilltop and presently lives in the Salishan area)

b. Diversity Statement

- i. Andrea asked for the survey and for others to share understanding about that. No one from the council could recall.
- ii. Andrea led the group through gender, race, location of resident, years lived in Tacoma.
- iii. The group spent time discussing barriers or perceived barriers that may be listed in the survey or application.
- iv. Katy shared there are offices within Peirce County that have started calling themselves "anti-racist" and taken a step further to change their interview questions to include things like, "This is an anti-racist organization. How do you feel about racism?"
- v. Britt shared that the Office of Equity has information that allows organizations to understand where they fall on the continuum racist or anti-racist organizations.

- vi. Andrea shared that parts of arts/heritage may include mediums and arts forms or forms of interpretive history that may expand their current understanding of either of those areas.
- vii. Commissioner Pointer asked about alignment of other councils. He also shared the desire to have a joint statement regarding equity between MPT and city of Tacoma.
- viii. Suggest looking into how MPT is proceeding forward with this statement with the City.
- ix. Maria liked the idea of a statement saying “We are an anti-racist organization.”
- x. Britt talked about the diversity statements she has seen that have a definition and action statements. If there were an overriding statement from MPT that could then be used as the overarching statement and then the council will create action steps that will allow fulfillment of that statement.
- xi. Andrea asked a query of why it matters that the council is diverse. Maria said that because there are projects going throughout the city and in other people’s neighborhoods, having people represented on the council from different areas of Tacoma is desirable for input.
- xii. Britt shared that people of color are underrepresented in arts and heritage. Katy echoed, that we should think about ways to dismantle the systemic oppression.
- xiii. Britt also suggested that whatever the values which are set within the council be taken with the members when they go out to their various other committees and sub-committees. Take the values out into the community.
- xiv. Andrea would like for staff to capture & update anything that is being done with the Office of Equity or where the conversation about diversification and equity within MPT is before the next meeting.

IV. Point Defiance Park Breakwater Naming- Mary

- a. Mary shared the information & that there were 209 entries as of this morning. Katy mentioned that she had already submitted a name.

V. Board & Staff Liaison Reports- Aaron/Mary

- a. Mary reminded everyone about Ethnic Fest on July 29th & 30th at Wright Park; also to come out for Shakespeare in the Park on August 4th.
- b. Aaron shared that he has enjoyed seeing the hundreds of people activating the parks. He also shared the arrival of the hammerhead sharks and sea turtles, which are coming soon. Laura shared the art steering committee will be meeting with Kate Rhodes on Aug. 25th to see the kinds of glass she will be bringing.

VI. People’s Community Center History Project- Tiffany Hammond/Whitney Brady

- a. Tiffany gave an overview of the project. She explained how to gather images and go about her process. Tiffany grew up in hilltop and decided the ground of hilltop was what she wanted to focus on- she is a painter by nature but has expanded on this project to wood carving and chose to show this represented in a map. She mentioned it being fulfilling to be able to run her hands over the streets that shaped who she is today. The electrical paint will connect to the board and people will be able to touch it and be able to hear the stories.

- b. Whitney gave an update of the audio portion of the project. He also shared he worked on the mural with Tiffany, which is on the outside of the building. He recorded 20 interviews and gathered a history of the people of hilltop specially. There was over 10 hours of audio. He edited that down to 10 different clips to a total now of 27 minutes of audio. He included Polish, Native American, Black- a good representation of race. He also has a wide variety of ages represented. The council was able to listen to two pieces “Origins” and “Malcom X Center”.
- c. Peter asked about a maintenance plan. He shared concerns about the wear and tear on the interactive art.
- d. Peter asked about multiple people to hear it more than once. Whitney said there would be two sets of headphones.
- e. Andrea asked if there would be the opportunity for visual signage, as those with hearing difficulties may not be able to interact with the piece.

VII. Good of the Order

- a. Laura shared Friday at the Fort and that there are also free concerts within Point Ruston on Saturday nights. This week, Kim Archer is playing.
- b. Andrea let everyone know Audubon Society is seeking out younger audiences and is changing up their programming somewhat. Check out a hike- Huckleberry Birds & Berries (Margaret Lake) see website. There will be another one which includes
- c. Britt shared that TAM opened up another show. Professor and contemporary artist instillation which is very abstract. There are video and sketches. It calls attention to the history of the railroad and specifically the expulsion of the Chinese from Tacoma– show runs through Feb. 18th. All 3rd Thursdays in the fall will include robust programming.
- d. Katy talked about all of the documentaries happening at The Grand Cinema which are happening this summer. Films on food, step, tribal rights – amazing and dynamic documentaries through August.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm. The next meeting will be held on August 16th at Point Defiance Park for a tour of Waterfront project.

Submitted by,

Mary Tuttle