

Arts and Heritage Advisory Council meeting minutes
February 20, 2019
Metro Parks Tacoma HQ

Advisory council members present: Andrea Michelbach, Britt Board, Laura Bradley, Maria Pascualy, Silong Chhun, Peter Stanley, Carol Goforth

Absent: Molica Chau, Zachary Powers, Katy Evans, Commissioner Smith, Rebecca Solverson

Staff liaisons present: Mary Tuttle, Claire Keller-Scholz

Staff guest: Debbie Terwilleger

- I. Meeting called to order at 5:31.
- II. Laura read the Indigenous Land Statement.
- III. The minutes of the Arts & Heritage Advisory Council from September 2018 were reviewed (as that had been the last traditional council meeting with full quorum). Carol moved, Maria seconded, motion carried to approve minutes as written.
- IV. The Chair amended the agenda to skip the Art Update (Rebecca was unable to attend this meeting), moved the “Board member experience/perspective survey results and recruitment discussion” agenda item to May’s meeting, and moved on to the 2019 MPT District Work Plan briefing.

V. b. 2019 MPT District Work Plan Briefing

Debbie Terwilleger, Director of the Planning and Development Department, provided an update on the 2019 Work Plan starting with a review of the management structure and departments of MPT.

- She discussed District Teams, Planning efforts underway such as the Swan Creek Master Plan and Ruston Way “Envision Your Waterfront” projects, the wrap up of the “Big 3” construction projects fulfilling some of the goals of the 2014 bond, and how Sustainability and Asset Management are two big areas of focus for 2019-2020.
- Claire mentioned that Planning projects aren’t just construction efforts, but involve local tribes and community groups as part of the process, providing MPT with opportunities for outreach and building connections.
- The Council asked if there are ways to promote sustainability as a component in the art and artist selection process, or perhaps something about conservation efforts.
- Mary noted that there are parts of the Arts programming that address this for the 2019 work plan, such as a turtle-themed ocean art project to support ocean conservation fund-raising.
- In response to a question about how MPT plans for sea level rise, Debbie described the University of Washington’s work on climate change models, and how MPT’s strategy involves being thoughtful about where we build things, using estimates for best and worst case scenarios for 50+ years down the road.

c. AH Work Plan review and approval

At 6:04 Debbie concluded her presentation and question period. Andrea thanked Debbie, and proceeded to additional Advisory Council business, opening the floor to comments and thoughts on where the Arts and Heritage Advisory Council is today and where it should go in 2019.

- The council discussed the level of work to be done at council meetings versus that done “off line” outside of the monthly meetings. Some members described the off-site meetings and tours as taking away from the time the council has to get their work done, others noted that they wanted to do more work offline but didn’t always have a chance to get to it.
- Council members were interested in putting realistic, scalable goals on the work plan and making time outside of meetings to attend events, both art and heritage oriented, to participate and then offer feedback to MPT on specific elements. The council responded positively to the proposal to develop a “pilot” program to recruit diverse board and volunteer members.
- Andrea commented that it can be difficult to contribute when things like art are up briefly at meetings and then gone. She proceeded to summarize the members’ comments, and noted that prioritization would be helpful (what does MPT want from us?) and to clarify what can the council contribute, how to best be useful, within a limited time frame and scope.
- The council members then discussed the 2019 AH Council Work Plan, looking at the “strategies” listed at the top of the draft document. Discussion ensued about attending events and tours outside of meetings.
- Mary provided examples of other councils getting out to sites and participating, providing feedback to MPT.
- Council members responded positively to this recommendation.
- Claire and Mary shared that MPT does value feedback, can provide examples of surveys that are typically used with district programs. Claire noted that she will work with Mary and Rebecca to build a brief assessment or survey for AH council members to use, and will send it out to members before the March meeting.
- After some discussion, the council re-arranged Work Plan items in several months for better flow, saved in the “Draft 3” version of the AH work plan.
- Britt moved to accept the AH Work Plan for 2019 as revised, Carol seconded, motion carried. Work Plan 2019 adopted.

a. Council Officers and Elections

- The Council moved on the to “Council Officers and Elections” agenda item, and Andrea opened the floor to discussion.
- Andrea shared that Zach had stated he would not continue as Secretary due to too many other time commitments. She noted that the Council can find success with a different leader.
 - Britt noted that although Vice Chairs often move into the Chair’s role due to her personal commitments for 2019 she would be unable to do so. She added she could continue as Vice Chair, however, if desired. Britt also noted that it is important to have greater diversity (age, race, geography) among council officers.

- Carol expressed support for the leadership as is (with Andrea in Chair role, and Britt as Vice Chair), as did Maria and Peter.
- After a few additional comments, the slate of officer candidates was presented: Andrea as Chair, Britt as Vice-Chair, and Silong and Peter as co-Secretaries for the Arts & Heritage Advisory Council.
- Laura moved to accept the nominations for the candidates for election to council offices. Maria seconded. Motion carried.
- Andrea noted that due to a time conflict due to her last quarter at UW, Molica will be taking a temporary leave of absence until June, but still plans to stay on the council. Council members felt this was fine.
- Andrea shared that Laura's term ends in March and she has indicated she will not be serving a second term. Andrea noted that all other council members up for a second term this year plan have indicated to date that they plan to continue. The council thanked Laura for her service.

VI. Board and Staff Liaison report

- Mary shared that MPT's Ethnic Heritage Fest organizers are still looking to hire an event lead, and added that she will send out an RFP for council members to share widely. She also noted that there's an opportunity to participate on a panel for the festival.
- Maria volunteered to sit on the panel.
- Claire noted that she will send out relevant Council Handbook excerpts to AH council members such as expectations and guidelines for council officers.

VII. Good of the Order

- Silong announced that the Lunar New Year Festival will be held Sunday the 24th at Lincoln District, rescheduled from February 10th which was snowed out.
- Laura announced that there is a charity fundraiser at the Glass Museum on March 9th, a special event with free admission and art pieces made there will be up for auction.
- Andrea shared that she had a card to sign thanking Commissioner Aaron Pointer for his time on the council as the Park Board representative for the Arts & Heritage Advisory Council.
- Laura noted that this would be her last council meeting, as she's unable to attend the March meeting and is ending her term this year. The council thanked her again for her work.

VIII. Meeting adjourned 7:06.

Submitted by Claire Keller-Scholz