



PUBLIC ART ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 3, 2016 – 5:00 p.m.

Committee Room #2

City Hall

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Mary Trentadue	- Council Representative
Jacqueline Buchanan	- Community Member
Eryne Donahue	- Community Member
Mariane Kazemir	- Community Member
Stephen O’Shea	- Arts Professional Representative
Eric Pattison	- Developer Recognized by Community
Lynne Probyn	- Community Member
Richard Carswell	- Community Member (exited at 5:53 p.m.)
Neal Michael	- Community Member
Karen Campbell	- Urban Designer

MEMBERS REGRETS:

Bruce Hemstock	- Urban Designer
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STAFF PRESENT:

Biliana Velkova	- Arts Coordinator
Debbie Johnstone	- Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 p.m.

1.0 ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Item 4.4 150 Mosaic Project update;
- Item 5.2 New Arts Strategy for New Westminster update; and,
- Item 5.3 Public Art Advisory Committee Post-Meeting Online Discussion

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of the February 4, 2016 Minutes

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the February 4, 2016 Public Art Advisory Committee be adopted.

CARRIED.

All members of the Committee present voted in favour of the motion.

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Public Art Project at the Inn at the Quay

Rick Carswell, Community Member, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding a Public Art project at the Inn at the Quay.

Following questions from the Committee, Mr. Carswell provided the following information:

- The art piece was created around the theme ‘locks of love in New Westminster’;
- The co-artist for the project was Jesse Matzhold;
- The budget for the piece was \$3,000.00, inclusive of artist fees and materials;
- The piece is 9’ tall and 8’ wide, and was designed to emulate a sail;
- The art piece is located on private space that is accessible to the public; and,
- The official name for the piece would be decided through a contest for the public.

3.2 Pump Stations/ Wood St Pump Station Public Art

Biliana Velkova, Arts Coordinator, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding options for public art in the Wood Street Pump Station replacement project.

Following questions from the Committee, Ms. Velkova provided the following information:

- The Wood Street Pump Station is a City project that would incorporate a public art piece;

- A landscape architect and architect would be involved with the replacement;
- The budget for the public art piece would be \$20,000.00;
- In acquiring information from other municipalities, it was suggested that the City integrate the artist into the design process as soon as possible;
- Integrating the art piece into the building of the pump station could be a cost effective approach;
- A timeline for the building of the structure has not been confirmed; and,
- The site would be accessible to the public.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee provided the following comments:

- Implementing a piece with elevation could attract more attention to the location;
- In order to provide a more versatile piece, it was suggested that the art could also be displayed in the landscape surrounding the pump station;
- Ensuring that the public art piece has an educational component could attract additional attention;
- The Public Art Reserve Fund could allocate additional funds towards the project; and,
- Public Art in Queensborough is limited, and this piece could be a good addition to the area.

Ms. Velkova enquired on possible themes for the public art call. The Committee provided the following suggestions:

- Complaints regarding graffiti in the area could be turned around to form a theme for the piece;
- Incorporating water cycles into storms, floods and water management was suggested;
- The physics/mechanism of the pump house could form an interesting theme;
- Incorporating the elevation of dykes and ditches in the call was suggested;
- A design could be created regarding the changing water levels at the pump house; and,
- Designs such as the blue raindrop at the Convention Centre are effective but simple.

The Committee directed Ms. Velkova to further investigate the timeline for the piece, and the options for allocating additional funds from the Public Art Reserve Fund towards the project.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Procedural Note: Rick Carswell exited the meeting at 5:53 p.m.

4.2 Olympic Torch Legacy

Biliana Velkova, Arts Coordinator, provided an update regarding the Olympic Torch Legacy project and provided the following information:

- Bruce Walther, who has implemented several other mosaic pieces throughout New Westminster, has been selected as the artist for the piece;
- Following the Committee's suggestions, Mr. Walther would work to incorporate the shape of the torch and the colours of the Olympics into the mosaic design;
- Two or three designs would be presented to the Committee for their input;
- The City Engineering department would be assisting with the installation of the design; and,
- The goal for completion for this project would be late spring/early summer.

4.3 Community Banners Public Art Projects Update

Biliana Velkova, Arts Coordinator, reported the following information with regard to the artist call for the community banners public art project:

- The deadlines for the call would be March 15, 2016;
- A jury would be selected for the project;
- The Committee could invite a member from the Uptown and Downtown Business Improvement Association (BIA) to sit on the jury;
- A meeting date for the jury would be set following the March 15th submissions deadline; and,
- The timeframe for the implementation of the banners would be late April or May.

Eryne Donahue, Neal Michael, and Mariane Kazemir volunteered to serve on the jury for this project, together with a member from the Uptown and Downtown BIA.

The Committee suggested that all of the designs submitted for the call could be displayed in a window at the Royal Centre Mall.

Ms. Velkova reported that the community banners workshops have received a lot of attention and that registration was nearly full for both age groups.

Procedural Note: This item was addressed following Item 4.2

4.4 Mosaic 150 Project

Biliana Velkova, Arts Coordinator, reported the following information with regard to the Mosaic 150 Project:

- The two possible locations for the project, the Bandshell wall and the Arts Council wall, have both been evaluated;
- According to the City, there is no leakage at the Bandshell wall; however, an electrical conduit on the structure would prevent the implementation of the mosaic;
- While the wall at the Arts Council is a perfect size square, concerns were expressed regarding the location. At eye level, the piece would likely be touched by visitors, which could affect the quality and safety the mosaic;
- A third location, the wall of the arenex, had been suggested for the project; and,
- The arenex wall could provide adequate visibility and implementing the mosaic at a higher level could prevent visitors from touching the piece.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee provided the following comments:

- A walkway, sign or bench could be incorporated to attract additional attention to the mosaic;
- Implementing the design at the top of the wall could lengthen the life of the piece;
- The wall of the arenex could be repainted to better showcase the piece; and,
- Protective planting at the bottom of the wall was suggested.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Public Art Advisory Committee support the location of the 150 Mosaic Project on the west facing wall of the Queens Park Arenex.

CARRIED.

All members of the Committee present voted in favour of the motion.

In addition, Ms. Velkova provided the following general update regarding other

outstanding public art projects:

- The City has accepted the timeline for the Gateway to New Westminster project. A date and time would be required in order to start with the fabrication of the project. The goal for the completion of the project would be late spring of 2016;
- Following the unveiling of the Gateway to New Westminster project, it was suggested that the artist could present at a Public Art Advisory Committee meeting, or speak with the public about the project at a workshop at Anvil Centre; and,
- The birds on a branch project is working within its scheduled timeline for completion. Unveiling should take place late fall, 2016.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Work Plan for 2017

Biliana Velkova, Arts Coordinator, initiated a discussion with regard to the Committee's work plan for 2017. The following information was provided:

- The Arts Strategy document would be revised in 2016/2017;
- The Arts Commission would have a large role in the revision of the document;
- Researching other Municipalities Arts Strategies would be included in this process; and,
- The Public Art Advisory Committee would be requested to contribute ideas regarding public art's role in the Arts Strategy.

The Committee agreed that a guiding document for the arts could be helpful, and that public art should be included in the Strategy.

Eric Pattison, Chair, suggested that Committee members consider possible themes, sites and artists for the 2017 public art work plan.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee provided the following comments:

- A workshopping session to gather ideas for 2017 was suggested;
- Members could provide a brief presentation illustrating their ideas for 2017 at the start of each meeting;

- A tour of public art in Richmond or Surrey could provide the Committee with new ideas;
- An inventory could be created to illustrate past achievements from the Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC); and,
- An online document, entitled ‘150 Years in the Making’ provides information regarding the history of parks, their locations and the public art that is currently displayed in New Westminster. This document could act as a good reference for PAAC members when deciding on locations and projects.

5.2 New Arts Strategy for New Westminster

This item was discussed with item 5.1

5.3 Public Art Advisory Committee Post-Meeting Online Discussion

Karen Campbell, Urban Designer, initiated a discussion regarding an online database and discussion outlet for the Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) to utilize between meetings.

The following suggestions were provided by the Committee:

- The website “Slack” was suggested; however, it was noted that issues with privacy could arise;
- Rather than a ‘chat room’ for members, the Committee could focus on a collective art database;
- An online database could be viewed as a tool for the Committee and may also alleviate the workload placed on staff;
- The database could be implemented on the City’s website, and could be password protected to ensure only PAAC members had access to the site;
- Utilizing the cultural map for this purpose was suggested; and,
- Providing a search option for past projects, artists and themes could be useful for the Committee.

Councillor Mary Trentadue, Council Representative, reported that discussions taking place outside of regularly scheduled committee meetings would not be permitted. If the focus of the database was to work as a tool for additional public art information this could be a better option.

Stephen O’Shea, Arts Professional representative, suggested that PAAC members participate in a ‘twitter takeover’ of the New Westminster Arts Services. This

could provide Committee members with an opportunity to showcase public art in the community.

6.0 REPORTS

There were no items.

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items.

8.0 NEXT MEETING

8.1 April 7, 2016 at 5 p.m. in Committee Room #2

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Certified Correct,

ERIC PATTISON
CHAIR

DEBBIE JOHNSTONE
COMMITTEE CLERK