



PUBLIC ART ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, December 3, 2015 – 5:00 p.m.
Committee Room #2
City Hall

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lynne Probyn	- Chair, Community Member
Jacqueline Dionne	- Arts Commission Representative (left at 6:17 p.m.)
Ted Drabyk	- Community Member
Councillor Mary Trentadue	- Council Representative (left at 7:13 p.m.)
Eric Pattison	- Urban Designer
Karen Campbell	- Urban Designer

MEMBERS REGRETS:

Eryne Donahue	- Community Member
Peter Lojewski	- Community Member
Mariane Kazemir	- Community Member

STAFF PRESENT:

Rob McCullough	- Manager, Cultural Services
Biliana Velkova	- Arts Coordinator
Debbie Johnstone	- Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 5:07 p.m.

1.0 ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The Following items were added to the agenda:

- 4.4 WOW Public Art Unveiling**
- 5.1 Public Art Council Workshop Update**
- 5.2 Annual Briefing for PAAC Members**

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of the November 5, 2015 Minutes

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the November 5, 2015 Public Art Advisory Committee meeting be adopted.

CARRIED.

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

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

There were no items.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1 Canada Day Lunch Box Auction

Lynne Probyn, Chair, provided the following information with regard to the Canada Day Lunch Box Auction:

- The Lunchbox Committee forwarded this item onto the Committee in 2013;
- The auction is also known as the “Pick-a-box” auction;
- Funds from the auction go towards Public Art opportunities in Queens Park; and,
- Interest had been expressed at a previous meeting to use a portion of a fallen historic oak tree in Queens Park for a public art piece.

Rob McCullough, Manager, Cultural Services, advised that he was unsure on the condition of the tree stump but would provide an update upon further investigation.

4.2 Olympic Torch Legacy Installation

Lynne Probyn, Chair, suggested that the Olympic Torch Legacy Installation be an item that the Committee focuses on in the New Year.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee provided the following comments:

- The item had last been discussed by the Committee in 2014;
- The proposed location for the project is the Queens Park Arena;
- It was suggested that heritage items from the Olympics be placed in a display along with the torch;

- The medal designer is a local artist who may be willing to donate a book or mock up design for the display;
- The Olympic Torch Legacy installation has been approved by Council;
- A focus should be placed on the practical implications of the project;
- It was suggested that the Olympic Torch Legacy installation could somehow incorporate the historical oak tree stump from Queens Park;
- A joint call for both the Public Advisory Committee and the Arts Commission could be beneficial;
- A jury could be selected to develop these themes and bring ideas back to the Public Art Advisory Committee and Arts Commission for further discussion;
- It was suggested that the Committee maintain an ongoing list of unfinished business in order to better keep track of these items; and,
- The Doors of Knowledge project is another item that requires further attention and planning by the Committee.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT staff place all unfinished public art projects on the agenda for continued updates.

CARRIED.

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

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT staff prepare a memo to combine the Olympic Torch Legacy Installation and the Historical Oak Stump Project into a single public art piece located in Queens Park; and,

THAT the Art Council be included in the proposed call.

CARRIED.

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

4.3 150 Mosaic

Rob McCullough, Manager, Cultural Services, reported the following information regarding the 150 Mosaic project:

- The Queens Park Arenex has available space to showcase the project;
- Materials for the project would consist of hardboard tiles that are painted with acrylic and then sealed;
- The tiles could be installed indoors with a 10 year duration period, or outdoors with a 5 year duration period;
- The project could be a great tool for community engagement; and,
- The project is estimated to cost \$10,000.00.

4.4 WOW Public Art Unveiling

Eric Pattison, Urban Designer, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the unveiling of WOW New Westminster, the final Biennale public art piece located at Westminster Pier Park.

The Committee noted that the piece was iconic for New Westminster, and that it is attracting attention to the City.

Biliana Velkova, Arts Coordinator, explained that the WOW piece had received attention from all over the world, and that the Biennale is implementing a 'selfie' campaign to further promote the piece.

Rob McCullough, Manager, Cultural Services, reported that the structure still requires a few finishing touches, as weather had restricted the completion of the paint job.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Public Art Council Workshop Update

Rob McCullough, Manager, Cultural Services, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding his report to Council on the Public Art Advisory Committee's (PAAC) process for upcoming projects.

Mr. McCullough reported that Council provided the following feedback regarding the various phases of the public art process:

- Clarification needs to be provided on the difference between professional and community artists;
- Concerns were expressed with respect to how the term "professional artist" could deter community artists from applying for artist calls;
- Providing Council with additional information at an earlier stage of the selection process was suggested; and,
- It was suggested that the public be more involved in the decision making process.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee provided the following comments:

- PAAC could invite a member of Council to be on the jury for certain projects; however, it was questioned if this could influence the opinion of other jury members;
- Council could be more involved in the development of the terms of reference for each project;
- Including Council at an earlier stage could provide useful background information regarding certain projects and artists;
- It was suggested that PAAC provide Council with additional information on projects that could attract attention. Smaller projects may not require the same level of Council involvement;

- Concerns were expressed regarding the implications that could arise involving Council in more political art choices;
- It was suggested that Council be provided with the opportunity to be involved at the terms of reference stage. Following that stage, Council can further decide if their involvement is required once the Committee narrows down the applicants to three expressions of interest;
- Staff could provide a report to Council regarding PAAC's progress on certain projects. Reports on applicants resumes, and backgrounds on the three shortlisted artists would need to be discussed at a Closed meeting to guarantee the integrity and intellectual process of the artist;
- The selection process can be quite long for artists, and sometimes the Honoria paid is not worth their time and effort. Involving Council sooner in the PAAC's process could limit this lengthy time period;
- The Committee reiterated the importance of providing an opportunity for artists to explain their process and their work to Council;
- There are currently no limitations in the City of New Westminster's policy to prevent artists from reapplying for calls;
- Both the Parkade and Gateway projects had two separate juries who picked the same artist. It was debated if a clause should be added to the terms of reference of a project in order to only allow an artist to be awarded one project per year in the City;
- Some members of the Committee felt that limiting artists could be unfair, as the best design should always be awarded;
- If the purpose of the call is to enrich the City's collection, it was suggested that using a single artist would not be the best way to achieve that goal;
- Enriching and diversifying the City's collection could be controlled through the jury; and,
- Smaller jobs can often bring less experienced artists which would help diversify the work done throughout the City.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Public Art Advisory Committee supports staff reporting public art projects to Council at the terms of reference stage and expression of interest shortlist stage.

CARRIED.

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

Procedural Note: Item 5.2 was discussed prior to item 5.1

5.2 Annual Briefing for Members

Eric Pattison, Urban Designer, expressed an interest for staff to provide an annual update regarding the Public Art Fund. Mr. Pattison suggested that this update could provide members with a better sense of their financial expenditures each year, and would also be beneficial for new members joining the Committee.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT staff provide a summary for the Public Art Advisory Committee reserve fund annually to provide context for new members.

CARRIED.

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

6.0 REPORTS

6.1 Identifying Community Public Art Opportunities Workshop

Biliana Velkova, Arts Coordinator, continued a discussion regarding community public art opportunities throughout the city. In summarizing an on-table report, Ms. Velkova advised that the price for City banners would be approximately \$4,000.00 to \$5,000.00, depending on the design. It was also noted that additional costs would be incurred for the payment of the Honoria for the artist or artist coordinator. It was estimated that the total amount for the project would be around \$10,000.00.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee provided the following comments:

- The call could be different for the areas that banners are being implemented (i.e. two streets could use banners made by kids while another street could have an artist design the banners);
- The call could be limited only to New Westminster residents and could be theme inspired;
- It was suggested that a theme for the banners on 12th Street could incorporate the 12th Street music festival;
- The banners could draw attention to an event or celebration in the City;
- A possible timeline for the project could be to start working on the details of the project in January, with a goal for instillation in May or June, 2016;
- Banners could provide community awareness regarding the importance of public art;
- The banners could be kept, recycled or re-implemented when they are no longer hanging;
- The banner could be branded with a Public Art Advisory Logo; however, this would need to be approved through the Communications department;
- It was suggested that a free workshop could be planned at Anvil Centre and kids from New Westminster to participate; and,
- Members expressed an interest to further discuss themes for the project at the following Public Advisory Committee meeting.

6.2 Parkade Public Art report

Rob McCullough, Manger, Cultural Services, and Councillor Trentadue reported that the artists for the Parkade public art piece had presented their design to Council, and that it was unanimously endorsed.

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items.

8.0 NEXT MEETING

8.1 January 7, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Certified Correct,

**LYNN PROBYN
CHAIR**

**DEBBIE JOHNSTONE
COMMITTEE CLERK**