

 Corporation of the City of
NEW WESTMINSTER
PUBLIC ART ADVISORY COMMITTEE

September 7, 2017 – 5:00 p.m.
City Hall, Committee Room #2

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Mary Trentadue	- Council Representative
Stephen O’Shea	- Chair, Arts Professional Representative
Karen Campbell	- Vice Chair, Urban Designer
Richard Carswell	- Community Member
Eryne Donahue	- Arts Commission Representative
Bruce Hemstock	- Urban Designer
Kendra Johnston	- Community Member
Mariane Kazemir	- Community Member
Vesna Malkjovic	- Arts Professional Representative
Neal Michael	- Community Member

MEMBERS REGRETS:

Jacqueline Buchanan	- Community Member
Erin Jeffrey	- Community Member

GUESTS:

Sloane Elphinstone	- Recreation Programmer, Parks and Recreation
Erika Mashig	- Parks & Open Space Planner, Parks and Recreation
Lynne Werker	- Public Art Plan Consultant
Janet Zazubek	- Planning Analyst, City of New Westminster

STAFF PRESENT:

Biliana Velkova	- Arts Coordinator
April Darke	- Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 5:06 p.m.

1.0 ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

1.1 The following items were added:

- Item 4.1 2017 – 2018 Work Plan
- Item 4.2 Front Street News Barrier Public Art Treatment

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the September 7, 2017 Public Art Advisory Committee agenda be adopted, as amended.

CARRIED.

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

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of the June 8, 2017 Minutes

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the June 8, 2017 Public Art Advisory Committee meeting be adopted.

CARRIED.

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

PROCEDURAL NOTE: item 5.1 was addressed after item 2.1

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

3.1 There were no items.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1 2017 – 2018 Work Plan

This item was tabled to the November 9, 2017 meeting.

4.2 Front Street Mews Barrier Wall Public Art Treatment

This item was tabled to the November 9, 2017 meeting.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Community Mural Policy Draft

PROCEDURAL NOTE: Neal Michael arrived at 5:08 pm

Biliana Velkova, Arts Coordinator, and Janet Zazubek, Planning Analyst, reviewed the “Community Mural Policy” draft document that was provided with the agenda material. Ms. Velkova advised the Committee that the policy’s purpose is to support community initiated mural projects, both on city and privately owned walls that have acquired funding. Ms. Velkova also advised the Committee that the processes behind the policy require clarification and refreshing in the areas of maintenance, budget and decision making.

In response to questions from the Committee, Ms. Velkova and Ms. Zazubek provided the following information:

- Privately owned buildings have been included within the policy for review against the sign bylaw criteria and specifically, whether the mural will be intended as art or will be used as business advertising
- The current mural policy currently sits within the Planning Department
- Both city and some privately owned murals are currently being maintained by the City; the policy requires updating to reflect that City owned mural maintenance be completed by the City and privately owned mural maintenance be completed by the owners

Discussion ensued and the Committee noted the following:

- The Committee can provide advice when requested to help with decision making on elements that impact the public
- Define what the acceptable artistic standards are to:
 - Set up guidelines
 - Refer to the Public Art Policy as a framework

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council approve the Community Mural Policy.

CARRIED.

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

PROCEDURAL NOTE: Vesna Malkjovic arrived at 5:17 pm

5.2 Fire Escape Stairs at 642 Columbia Street

Erika Mashig, Parks and Open Space Planner, provided a PowerPoint presentation which highlighted details of the Fire Escape Stairs located at 642 Columbia Street.

Ms. Mashig provided the following additional information:

- Background
 - Previously used as a fire escape that joined to the parkade

- A section of the parkade was demolished and the platform connecting to the stairs was removed
- Building code requires a fire escape for the 2nd and 3rd floors of the building
- The building is historic
- The building cannot support weight bearing loads therefore the stairs needed their own structural foundation
- Building stairs internally would incur a large cost
- Will be accessible to the public from the top for use in an emergency situation
- A decision has not been made on whether or not to move the stairs to a new location
- Being presented to the Committee for their input to better integrate the stairs into their surroundings and use them to create a public art feature through
 - Lighting
 - Interactive projection
 - Festival and seasonal incorporations

In response to questions from the Committee, Ms. Mashig provided the following information:

- A cost analysis on moving the stairs is currently being prepared
- Council is currently determining:
 - Options for the stairs, egress to the building and adaptation to the building should moving the stairs occur
- A gate or fence and railings would be installed to prevent the public from accessing and climbing the staircase
- Bridges will connect the 2nd and 3rd floors
- Overhead powerlines and hydro will be removed and installed underground
- Funding for the project
 - Engineering is contributing from their budget
 - The remaining funding would come from a recommendation made by Council
- Being presented to Council on September 18, 2017 for decision

Discussion ensued and the Committee noted the following:

- Reference the Public Art Plan for:
 - Possible locations within the city, in relation to open space and activities
- Incorporate the following:
 - Sunshade
 - Projection screens
 - Interactive elements
 - Water

- Sounds
- Financial aspects need to be considered carefully
- Generate interest within the community and obtain the public's input and involvement

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT the Public Art Advisory Committee recommends a public art component be incorporated in the fire escape stairs at 642 Columbia Street.

CARRIED.

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

PROCEDURAL NOTE: Lynne Werker arrived at 5:51 pm

5.3 Capture Photography Festival

Biliana Velkova, Arts Coordinator, provided a PowerPoint presentation which highlighted details of the City's participation in Capture Photography Festival 2017. Ms. Velkova also provided the Committee with information on a possible site location for 2018, a budget and a timeline.

Ms. Velkova provided the following additional information:

- When looking at a location the following objectives were taken into consideration:
 - Accessibility including walking, cycling, driving and public transportation
 - Central location
 - A space that accommodates a large piece of public art
- Installation and material:
 - A soft mesh material that is translucent and colorful
 - Material has been used by TransLink within the Surrey SkyTrain station
- Budget
 - Was prepared based upon the quote obtained for the large mesh wall currently installed

In response to questions from the Committee, Ms. Velkova provided the following information:

- Previously, Capture Photography festival managed the project and the staff managed the administrative aspects
- The City will be utilizing its own contractor and will be project managing the installation for the 2018 festival
- The mesh:
 - Is very durable

- Lasts a minimum of one year (the term of the Capture Photography Festival)

Discussion ensued and the Committee noted the following:

- The material can be viewed on both sides and this element should be incorporated

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Council approves the Public Arts Advisory Committee recommendation to approve spending up to \$20,000.00 from the Public Art Reserve Fund to support the Capture Photography Festival on East Columbia Street.

CARRIED.

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

5.4 Interim Facility at Queens Park

Sloane Elphinstone, Recreation Programmer, provided the following presentation regarding the interim facility at Queens Park:

- Queens Park Arenex collapsed in December 2016
- The interim facility will be built next to the Arenex site and will occupy the tennis courts and a portion of the City works yard
- It is prefabricated, made of membrane and will be approximately twice the size of the Queens Park Arenex and will include:
 - A full sized sport court
 - A full time gymnastics and trampoline facility
- The loss of the Queens Park Arenex was unexpected and therefore:
 - There was no budget to replace the facility
 - There was no money assigned for public art
- Prior to the collapse of the Queens Park Arenex discussions had taken place for placement of public art outside of the facility that would provide a seating area to enjoy the park
- Queens Park Arenex was a location chosen by the Committee, prior to the collapse, as a location for public art
 - Consideration for access \$60,000.00 of the funds from the Public Art Reserve Fund
- The structure has been approved and development of the site is proceeding
 - Want to ensure that the public art piece of this development is not lost
- Needs an interesting element of art to soften the utilitarian look of the facility
- Needs an outdoor space for people to congregate, play, relax, appreciate the outdoors while in proximity to the building through:
 - Public art that is permanent or temporary
 - A space that focuses on the natural backdrop of the land

- Use reclaimed materials such as wood from the Queens Park Arenex

In response to questions from the Committee, Ms. Elphinstone provided the following information:

- Interim facility can last up to 40 years
- The public art can be located inside or outside of the facility
- Neighboring community centres have enlisted consultants during the design process
- Colors can be chosen for the outside of the facility. However, the additional costs are high.
- The facility is scheduled to be open in May 2018
- Hope to unveil the art in conjunction of the facility opening
- Want to ensure that an public art plan and funds are ready, available and included with the facility plans

Discussion ensued and the Committee noted the following:

- Consider placing a parklet as a piece of art at the entrance of the facility
 - Enables placement of public art
 - Encourages public input
 - Provides a place for parents and children to sit
- Create a space that immerses the user with:
 - A quiet setting
 - Sound elements
 - Revolving pieces of art
 - Benches and landscape that include unique designs
- The facility and the park is actively used by the public who would be able to enjoy art at the interim facility
- The Committee asked for additional time to contemplate and discuss the proposal

The Committee invited Ms. Elphinstone to attend their next scheduled meeting of November 9, 2017. Ms. Elphinstone advised the Committee that she will attend and will bring with her the design plans for the interim facility for the Committee to review.

5.5 Public Art Plan Draft

Lynn Werker, Public Art Plan Consultant, reviewed the Public Art Plan Draft with the Committee. Ms. Werker advised the Committee that she updated the document to ensure that it aligned with Official Community Plan document to be presented to Council on October 2, 2017.

Discussion ensued and the Committee noted the following comments:

- The map
 - Break it down into smaller maps of neighborhoods and focus on each neighborhood individually to show:
 - What neighborhood it is, i.e. Brow of the Hill
 - What are the characteristics of each neighborhood that brought about the names for each
- Suggestions on where public art should be placed
 - Make recommendations and provide an outline as to why
 - Will provide the community and future Committee members with insight as to why a location was chosen
 - Make the process of providing recommendations and an outline a part of the Public Art Plan process
- Determine public art locations yearly for the following year
 - Use as a guide for future projects to
 - Outline themes that have been accomplished
 - Provide a resource on the factors that were considered for a location
- Ensure that this process and document are updated yearly
- The Public Art Plan document
 - Was well written overall
 - Will provide the Committee with a reference
 - Will provide the community with an understanding of the Public Art Advisory Committee and its accomplishments

In response to questions from the Committee, Ms. Werker suggested that the Committee create mini master plans for each neighborhood.

Ms. Velkova will update the Public Art Plan map to include the Official Community Plan boundaries, neighborhood names, neighborhoods for which an art plan has been developed and neighborhoods for which an art plan has been completed. The newly revised map will be displayed on 11 X 17 inch paper. This document will be circulated to City staff to obtain their suggestions. The revised document, complete with City staff suggestions, will be presented to the Committee at its next meeting on November 9, 2017.

Ms. Werker will update the Public Art Plan draft document.

PROCEDURAL NOTE: Kendra Johnstone left at 7:05 p.m.

The Committee was asked to review the document and provide any further comments to Biliانا Velkova and Lynn Werker, by email, by September 14, 2017. The updated document will then be sent to City staff in early October to obtain

their feedback and suggestions. Ms. Velkova will provide the Committee with an update on this document, complete with staff comments, at the next meeting of November 9, 2017. The document will then be given to the designer for final assembly. This document will be presented to Council in early 2018.

PROCEDURAL NOTE: items 4.1 and 4.2 were addressed after item 5.5

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

There were no items.

7.0 NEXT MEETING

November 9, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. in Committee Room #2

8.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Certified Correct,

Stephen O'Shea
Chair

April Darke, Committee Clerk