

## **PUBLIC ART ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAAC)**

**September 5, 2019- 5:30 p.m.  
Committee Room 2, City Hall**

### **MINUTES**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Stephen O'Shea	- Chair, Arts Professional Representative
Councillor Mary Trentadue	- Council Representative
Eryne Donahue	- Alternate Chair Artist of Recognized Standing in New Westminster
Bruce Hemstock	- Urban Designer
Peter Leblanc	- Non-Profit Representative
Janice Meehan	- Community Member
Neal Michael	- Community Member
David Vivian	- Arts Professional Representative

#### **MEMBER REGRETS:**

Kendra Johnston	- Community Member
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#### **STAFF PRESENT:**

Rob McCullough	- Manager, Museums & Heritage Services
Tobi May	- Project Manager, Civic Buildings & Properties
Carilyn Cook	- Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 p.m. with Mr. Vivian in attendance via teleconference.

### **1.0 ADDITIONS / DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA**

#### **1.1 MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT the Agenda for the Public Art Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for September 5, 2019 be adopted with the withdrawal of Item 5.2 – Public Library Public Art Opportunity which will be addressed at a future meeting and the addition of Item 5.5 – Election of Juror to Represent PAAC on the Sportsplex Call.*

**CARRIED.**

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

## **2.0 ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES**

### **2.1 Adoption of the Meeting Minutes of May 2, 2019**

**MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT the minutes of the May 2, 2019 Public Art Advisory Committee meeting be adopted as circulated.*

**CARRIED.**

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

### **2.2 Adoption of the Meeting Minutes of June 6, 2019**

**MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT the minutes of the June 6, 2019 Public Art Advisory Committee meeting be adopted as circulated.*

**CARRIED.**

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

## **3.0 PRESENTATIONS**

There were no items.

## **4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **4.1 Banners – Rob McCullough, Manager, Museums & Heritage Services**

Mr. McCullough shared that an art instructor worked with local children to create banner artwork; however, the second aspect of the project, a Call to local community artists, has not been pursued due to staff constraints.

Members advised that the children's banners should be placed in areas previously identified by the Committee, including Sapperton, McBride Boulevard, Queensborough, and Quayside.

Mr. McCullough stated that the City would like to place banners in areas that do not already have them, in order to expand the program, noting that, as the poles in Queensborough are parallel to the street, they would not provide a great view of the banners.

#### **4.2 New West Aquatic and Community Centre (NWACC) Public Art Call Update - Tobi May, Project Manager**

Ms. May advised that the draft NWACC Public Art Call received a warm reception by Council and the final Call, as presented this evening, has gone out through BC Bid, the City's website, Facebook, Instagram, etc., and closes on Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Procedural note:** Mr. Bruce Hemstock, Urban Designer, arrived at 5:38 p.m.

Mr. McCullough announced that Ernie Cardinal, of Spirit of the Children Society, has agreed to sit on the jury, and Brenda Crabtree, the Director of Aboriginal Programs at the Emily Carr University of Art + Design is in the process of being confirmed as a juror. Staff may also reach out to the Museum of Anthropology at the University of British Columbia for juror suggestions. He noted that the Call has also gone out through the various Indigenous nations.

In response to questions from the Committee, staff provided the following comments:

- Artists will be advised that the Call includes both the lobby space and the leisure pool tiles;
- Short-listed artists will be compensated, not commissioned, for attending a mandatory on-site meeting in October;
- One PAAC member will sit on the jury; the majority will be indigenous;
- To stay organized and maintain equity and fairness throughout the process, all Call enquiries are filtered by the City's purchasing manager to Mr. McCullough and Ms. May. This process may be utilized for other projects.

**Procedural note:** Councillor Trentadue arrived at 5:50 p.m.

- It was clarified that the onus will be on the artists to identify when they will require a professional to review technical work and their expert will work alongside staff professionals.

### **5.0 NEW BUSINESS**

#### **5.1 Draft Call for - Sportsplex Public Art Opportunity – Tobi May, Project Manager**

Ms. May reviewed the draft call for the Sportsplex facility which includes the opportunity for a public art installation on the side of the new building, including the following objectives:

- To animate the public realm/facility interface
- To enhance and enliven the façade of the Sportsplex and the public space around the structure, especially the skate park
- To develop a sense of place, community pride, and identity through the creation of the public art work
- To be a defining feature of the building and this location within the Park
- To create a contemporary and innovative art installation that inspires residents and visitors

In response to questions from the Committee, staff provided the following comments:

- The site for the art work is not necessarily related to the entry of the building and is more a part of the park space;
- There will be a large amount of foot traffic in the area, so people walking and driving by the wall will be able to view the art work which will animate the interface between the inside and outside of the building and it will enhance the outside public realm; and,
- An illumination work was proposed for the site initially with, perhaps, neon being installed on the wall.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee provided the following comments:

- The entrance to the facility should be included in the Call;
- If the artwork is installed where it is currently being proposed, those utilizing the picnic tables near the entrance will not be able to enjoy it;
- The parquor plaza at the front entrance will be a fast moving activity which will move throughout the entire space and may result in older kids clashing with the smaller children entering the facility;
- The Call should be seeking something for the entire area and not just what is currently being proposed which would basically result in a mural on a wall;
- Although the budget and timeline are very compressed, it would be nice to see what an arts professional could do with the space that is original and outside the box;
- The open space design should be responding to the artwork, not the other way around, so the landscape design should not be finalized until the artwork is decided upon;
- The Call could request that artists consider including illuminating and multi-dimensional aspects in their submissions and that the artwork be bold to animate the space; although it should not be too prescriptive;
- The space could be layered, with something in the area in front of the wall that could guide away from the parquor and into the building;

- The shape of the artwork should not be prescribed, it could be free standing, multi-dimensional, etc.;
- As the public art will be for the whole area and not just for the Sportsplex, the word “Sportsplex” should be replaced in the Call;
- The prescriptive language in the Call should be reconsidered;
- As the Floralume installation cost \$75K to \$80K, it would be reasonable to significantly increase the budget for this project as the current proposed funding will not be enough; and,
- Committee members agreed to recommend to increase the budget for the Call to up to 100K from the Public Art Fund so that it can move forward.

In response to further questions from the Committee, staff provided the following comments:

- Based on the discussion this evening, it appears that the Call should be altered dramatically to, amongst other things, include additional space on the outside of the building;
- Other city staff would need to be consulted to determine the feasibility of some of the requested changes to the Call;
- The Committee could push forward with the public art and ask the public realm designers to respond to it; and,
- If the public art is fully separated from the building and free standing, the schedule would be more flexible.

At the end of the roundtable discussion, based on the comments received, Staff confirmed PAAC’s request that the following suggestions be investigated for possible inclusion in the Call:

1. Enhancement of the budget up to \$100K;
2. Do not limit the Call to a two dimensional art installation;
3. The landscape should be designed around the art;
4. Re-visit the prior conversation with the PAAC with respect to improving the experience for families as they enter the space; and,
5. Include in the Call, the times of day that the area will be active (9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.) so that installations that include illumination may also be submitted (e.g. “This is a facility being used both day and night and the artists should consider that.”)

**MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT the Public Art Advisory Committee recommends that Council consider increasing the public art budget for the Sportsplex precinct from \$45K to up to \$100K from the public art reserve fund.*

**CARRIED.**

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

**MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT the Public Art Advisory Committee recommends that staff refer to the comments outlined this evening's minutes with respect to the draft Sportsplex Public Art Call and report back to the Committee with a revised Call.*

**CARRIED.**

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

It was noted that staff are to come back to the Committee to receive input on themes for the Call.

**5.2 Public Library Public Art Opportunity – Tobi May, Project Manager**

– This item will be addressed at a future PAAC meeting.

**5.3 Election of Juror to Represent PAAC on the NWACC Call – Committee**

**MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT Neal Michael be elected to represent the Public Art Advisory Committee on the New Westminster Aquatic and Community Centre Public Art Call Jury Panel; and,*

*THAT Eryne Donahue be elected as Mr. Michael's alternate on the New Westminster Aquatic and Community Centre Public Art Call Jury Panel.*

**CARRIED.**

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

**5.4 Additional Meeting Dates: Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup> OR Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup> – Councillor Trentadue**

Discussion ensued and Committee members agreed to schedule two additional meeting dates including Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. and Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.

**5.5 Election of Juror to Represent PAAC on the Sportsplex Call – Committee**

**MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT Eryne Donahue be elected to represent the Public Art Advisory Committee on the Sportsplex Public Art Call Jury Panel; and, THAT Janice Meehan be elected as Ms. Donahue’s alternate on the Sportsplex Public Art Call Jury Panel.*

**CARRIED.**

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

**6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION**

There were no items.

**7.0 NEXT MEETING**

Thursday, October 10, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. – Committee Room 2, City Hall

**8.0 ADJOURNMENT**

**ON MOTION**, the meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Certified Correct,

Original Signed  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Stephen O’Shea**  
**Chair**

Original Signed  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Carilyn Cook**  
**Committee Clerk**