



**PUBLIC ART ADVISORY COMMITTEE
(PAAC)**

March 4, 2021

**Meeting held electronically under Ministerial Order No. M192/2020 and
the current Order of the Provincial Health Officer - *Gatherings and Events***

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Mary Trentadue
Nazli Azimikor
Kathy Curry
Peter Leblanc
Oliver McTavish-Wisden
Janice Meehan
Neal Michael
Stephen O'Shea
David Vivian

- Council Representative
- Chair/Urban Designer
- Arts Professional Representative
- Arts Commission Representative
- Alternate Chair/Community Member
- Community Member
- Community Member
- Arts Professional Representative
- Arts Professional Representative

REGRETS:

Eryne Donahue
Autumn Sweet
Craig West

- Artist of Recognized Standing in New Westminster
- Urban Designer
- Urban Designer

STAFF PRESENT:

Todd Ayotte
Sarah Joyce
Nicole Ludwig
Carilyn Cook

- Manager, Community Arts and Theatre
- Director/Curator, New Media Gallery
- Assistant Committee Clerk
- Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Procedural note: Neal Michael, Alternate Chair for 2020 assumed the Chair until the Chair for 2021 was elected.

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

MOTION:

THAT pursuant to Section 90 of the Community Charter, members of the public be excluded from the Closed Meeting of Committee immediately following the Regular Meeting of Committee on the basis that the subject matter of all agenda items to be considered relate to matters listed under Sections 90(1) (b) and 90(1) (k) of the Community Charter:

90(1) (b) personal information about an identifiable individual who is being considered for a municipal award or honour, or who has offered to provide a gift to the municipality on condition of anonymity; and,

90 (1) (k) negotiations and related discussions respecting the proposed provision of a municipal service that are at their preliminary stages and that, in the view of the council, could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality if they were held in public.

CARRIED.

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

1.0 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1.1 MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Agenda for the Public Art Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for March 4, 2021 be adopted with the addition of New Business Item 5.4: Utility Wraps by Todd Ayotte, Manager, Community Arts and Theatre.

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 October 1, 2020

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the October 1, 2020 Public Art Advisory Committee be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED.

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

Procedural note: At this point in the meeting, New Business Item 5.1: Election of Chair and Alternate Chair was addressed and Nazli Azimikor assumed the Chair.

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

There were no items.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1 Sportsplex Public Art – Update

Todd Ayotte, Manager, Community Arts and Theatre, provided an update on the Sportsplex public art project, advising the Committee that the work by selected artist, Nathan Lee, was installed in February. Once the lighting and landscaping is complete a public announcement will be made and the city's public art website will be updated to include information about the artist and the artwork. Mr. Ayotte shared that due to COVID-19, new ways to commemorate the addition of this work to the collection are being determined and, as such, work is being done with the Arts Council of New Westminster to create an adaptive tour and artist's talk.

Stephen O'Shea, Arts Professional Representative, reminded Committee members of the discussion at the last meeting regarding the demise of the Wow Westminster installation during the Pier Park fire, resulting in a groundswell of support from the community including a small amount of funds raised by local businesses to support public art through the Arts Council of New Westminster. Mr. O'Shea asked Committee members what kind of public programming could be created to complement Mr. Lee's artwork that would be in compliance with Provincial Health Orders.

In response to Mr. O'Shea's question, Committee members provided the following suggestions:

- A downloadable, self-paced audio tour with the artist providing insight into the exhibit could be considered; and,
- Placards with written sections and QR codes to read about the art.

4.2 NWACC Public Art – Update

Todd Ayotte, Manager, Community Arts and Theatre noted that selected artist James Harry worked with the design team to finalize the IFC documents, including refining the location specifications as well as infrastructure needs for the artwork. Once the project is approved to advance, the city will move towards a contract with the artist.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Election of Chair and Alternate Chair

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Nazli Azimikor be elected as the Chair for the 2021 term of the Public Art Advisory Committee.

CARRIED.

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

MOVED AND SECONDED

THAT Oliver McTavish-Wisden be elected as the Alternate Chair for the 2021 term of the Public Art Advisory Committee.

CARRIED.

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

5.2 Emerging Opportunity – Electrical Substation 886 Boyd Street

Todd Ayotte, Manager, Community Arts and Theatre, provided a presentation regarding an emerging opportunity for public art on the metal-screen fence at an electrical substation to be constructed at 886 Boyd Street. The screening fence will face Boyd Street and the Queensborough Landing Shopping Complex. He advised that the Electrical Department have reached out to explore the possibility of incorporating a public art component in the fence screen, which would be funded through their infrastructure project. PAAC's role would be to support the Call and selection process through the Public Art Program, and with the artist's fee coming from the Public Art Reserve.

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Ayotte advised that a budget would be established for artist fees, with an anticipated cost of approximately \$5,000-6,000 depending on the structure of the call. Budgetary items to consider as the call develops include artist fees for the selected artist and potential honourariums for three to five shortlisted artists.

Discussion ensued, and a Committee member suggested that the Committee may want to set the direction of the piece with respect to a theme which could be whimsical or have a sense of play.

More information about the timing of the project will be provided at a future meeting once the specifications are provided by the project manager (to inform the call).

Further discussion ensued regarding the selection jury for the new substation artwork and the following motion was passed:

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Public Art Advisory Committee appoints Nazli Azimikor to sit on the 886 Boyd Street Substation Public Art Jury.

CARRIED.

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

5.3 2021 Work Plan Review

Todd Ayotte, Manager, Community Arts and Theatre, reviewed the staff 2021 Work Plan which includes advancing major public art projects, developing community art projects, completing a policy review, and finalizing the public art plan for Council's endorsement.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee provided the following comments:

- It is nice to have a visual layout of what the Committee will be supporting over the next year; and,
- Other work could include signage or wayfinding for existing artwork such as the Floralume installation and updating the public art registry.

5.4 Utility Wraps

Todd Ayotte, Manager, Community Arts and Theatre, initiated a discussion regarding developing a long term replacement plan for art wraps on utility boxes at various locations throughout the City. It was noted that some of the boxes have been replaced, and the artwork removed, and some are starting to show wear. Mr. Ayotte requested feedback from the Committee regarding this potential opportunity, noting that these projects were not meant to be permanent and can be a good opportunity for emerging artists.

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Ayotte provided the following comments:

- Previously removed artwork is not salvaged;
- A starting point could be the development of an inventory including a list of utility boxes available for projects and the state of existing art-worked wraps;
- Historically, there have been two funding sources for the utility wrap artwork including through a community art initiative funded by the Public Art Reserve and implemented through the Community Art Coordinator, as well as through an anti-graffiti budget, as it is noted that wraps tend to discourage tagging of the utility boxes; and,

- At this point we do not have an allocation in the public art budget to support these initiatives but we could look at the possibility of utilizing some of the community art funding allocation.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee provided the following comments:

- Any new opportunities should be advanced with new commissions; this can be a great opportunity for emerging artists and could be a larger project done across the city; and,
- The temporary nature of the artwork must be communicated to artists and the community.

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

There were no items.

7.0 NEXT MEETING

Thursday, May 7, 2021

8.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Certified Correct,

Original Signed _____

Nazli Azimikor
Chair

Original Signed _____

Carilyn Cook
Committee Clerk