

Members

Robin Echte, *Chair*
Traci Kelly, *Vice Chair*
Lauren Walker, *City Council Liaison*
Marty Campbell, *City Council Liaison Alternate*
Jan Brazzell
Rachel Cardwell
J.D. Elquist
Matt Hudgins
Donald Lacky
Dane Meyer
Zach Powers
Scott Ramsey
Catherine Stegeman
Mike Sweny
Wanda Thompson
Jana Wennstrom

Summary Minutes

Tacoma Arts Commission

Community & Economic Development

These minutes accompany the recorded meeting of the Tacoma Arts Commission, which is available at www.cityoftacoma.org/tacagendaminutes.

Staff

Amy McBride, *Tacoma Arts Administrator*
Naomi Strom-Avila, *Cultural Arts Specialist*

Date: June 10, 2013

Location: City of Tacoma Municipal Building North, Room 16

Time: 5:00 pm

Commission Members in Attendance:

Robin Echte, Chair
Traci Kelly, Vice Chair
Jan Brazzell
Rachel Cardwell
J.D. Elquist
Matt Hudgins
Don Lacky
Dane Meyer
Zach Powers
Catherine Stegeman
Mike Sweny
Wanda Thompson
Jana Wennstrom

Commission Members Excused Absence:

Scott Ramsey

Staff Present:

Amy McBride, Tacoma Arts Administrator
Naomi Strom-Avila, Cultural Arts Specialist

Guests:

Gabriel Brown

1. Call to Order **5:06 pm (00:12)** **Chair Echte**

2. Excusal of Absences **5:06 pm (00:27)** **Vice Chair Kelly**

Commissioner Ramsey had an excused absence.

3. Approval of Agenda and Minutes **5:06 pm (00:31)** **Vice Chair Kelly**

Vice Chair Kelly asked “can I have a call for approval?”

There was a motion: “I so move.”

Motion: Jana Wennstrom

Second: Jan Brazzell

Motion: Carried

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4. Chair's Report**5:06 pm (00:53)****Chair Echte**

Chair Echte invited Commissioners to attend the Old Town Dock public art dedication on June 16. She reminded Commissioners that there will not be a Commission meeting in July. Chair Echte congratulated Commissioner Cardwell on the birth of her baby.

5. Staff Check-In**5:08 pm (02:47)**

Commissioners Wennstrom, Brazzell, Stegeman, and Meyer volunteered to sit on the Art at Work Month Studio Tour committee.

Commissioners volunteered to attend funded events as follows:

date	organization	event	volunteer
7/12/13	Tacoma Musical Playhouse	Ragtime	Don Lacky
8/6/13	Hilltop Artists	Hilltop Arts Night Out	Catherine Stegeman
8/17/13	Local Life	Downtown Block Party	Rachel Cardwell
8/17/13	Washington State Historical Society	In the Spirit market and festival	J.D. Elquist

Daniel Martin has been installing temporary duct tape art installations along Pacific Avenue as part of the Green Flash concept.

Amy McBride will be presenting at the Association of Washington Cities conference on June 26.

Chair Echte and Commissioners Elquist and Ramsey juried the National Arts Program exhibit for the City. A reception for the show will be held on June 17, 5:30 pm at Broadway Center Studio #2.

6. Action Items**A. Tacoma Totem Pole De-accession Review Panel Recommendation(s) 5:16 pm (10:12)**

Commissioners reviewed the summary minutes from the June 4 Tacoma Totem Pole De-accession Review Panel. The review panel included: Jack Curtright, Ed Echte, J.D. Elquist, Lynette Miller, and Robin Wright. Shaun Peterson attended as a consultant.

The review panel unanimously recommended keeping the Tacoma Totem Pole in the Municipal Art Collection and not de-accessioning it.

The review panel provided two possible interventions for the pole if it is to remain in the Municipal Art Collection:

1. Stabilize the pole in place with an architectural brace behind the pole
2. Take the pole down and put it in an indoor location, horizontally, for public viewing

The review panel also recommended basic conservation of the pole to rid it of bugs and prevent it from deteriorating further. They did not recommend a complete restoration of the pole.

The review panel determined that it is a tourist pole and not a sacred object. The imagery on the pole does not represent any particular tribe, clan, or story.



Commissioners asked about the expertise of the panelists. Ms. McBride noted that Robin Wright and Lynette Miller are experts in Native American art and Shaun Peterson is a Native artist.

The carvers of the pole are unknown. Other artists have worked on the pole including Doug Granum and Loren White. The pole has been repainted at least five times in its life.

Estimates from BLRB and PCS run \$34,000 - \$44,000 to stabilize the pole in place. A bid from 2007-08 to take down the pole and fully conserve it to its original form was for \$36,000 - \$45,000. Basic conservation and cleaning of the pole would be significantly less. Market value to completely replace the pole would be \$320,000, based on \$4,000 per linear foot.

The Arts Commission's recommendations will go to the Landmarks Preservation Commission. If the pole is recommended to be taken down, then a public hearing would be required.

The City has Public Works funds set aside for the pole. The funds are enough to cover either stabilizing the pole in place or removing it. It is not known if there is money to put the pole back up again at a later date if another location is eventually found. There are not funds to cover the creation of a new pole.

The City has a surplus pole that could be used to brace the Totem Pole in place. If the Totem Pole is taken down, the City has the Sea Scout building that it could be placed in for a few months. No indoor location has been determined for long term storage of the pole. The Washington State History Museum is not prepared to take on the liability of the pole or the costs associated with the display of the pole.

Commissioners discussed that, whether the pole is stabilized in place or taken down, it is essential to have a curatorial preservation and maintenance plan in place and have interpretive signage that covers the story of the pole.

(34:49) There was a motion: "I would make a motion that we accept the recommendations of this ad-hoc de-accession committee."

Motion: Dane Meyer

Second: Catherine Stegeman

Motion: Carried

Landmarks Preservation Commission will make the final decision of what intervention to take with the pole.

Commissioners discussed the possibility that future maintenance costs of the pole may exceed what the Arts Commission is able to fund.

Commissioners discussed the cultural and historic significance vs. the artistic merit of the pole.

Commissioners discussed the pros and cons of either stabilizing the pole in place or taking the pole down.

(01:59:54) There was a motion: "I would make a motion that we pass the recommendation of the Arts Commission to the Landmarks Commission that there be a plan created for the future care of the pole and that the Arts Commission be included in the discussion of said plan including the potential artistic merit of the pole."



Motion: Traci Kelly

Second: Dane Meyer

Motion: Withdrawn

Commissioners further discussed the pros and cons of either stabilizing the pole in place or taking the pole down.

(01:19:32) There was a motion: “The recommendation from the Arts Commission would be that, if at all possible, we would have a preference for the pole remaining stabilized and upright.”

Motion: Mike Sweney

Second: Jana Wennstrom

There was an addendum: “I would like to see a long-term preservation plan established for the piece as an addendum to the motion on the floor.”

Addendum: Traci Kelly

Addendum Acceptance: Mike Sweney

Aye votes: Robin Echte, Traci Kelly, Matt Hudgins, Dane Meyer, Mike Sweney, Wanda Thompson, Jana Wennstrom

Nay votes: Rachel Cardwell, Don Lacky, Jan Brazzell, Zach Powers

Abstentions: J.D. Elquist, Catherine Stegeman

Motion: Carried

7. Discussion/Updates

A. Art at Work Month

6:34 pm (01:28:18)

Vice Chair Kelly and Commissioner Powers gave an overview of the Art at Work Month Marketing Committee’s discussions to date including identifying target audiences and ways to improve marketing avenues.

B. Tacoma Murals Project

6:39 pm (01:33:34)

Five sites were selected for the 2013 Tacoma Murals Project. The walls include:

Lighthouse Activity Center	5016 A St.
Lincoln District Steering Committee	3639 S. G Street
Stadium Historic District Business Association	120 Tacoma Ave N.
Tacoma Buddhist Temple	1717 Fawcett Ave
Tacoma Theater District Association (TDA)	616 St Helens Ave

Two additional sites will be painted this year as well. One is a continuation of a mural started in 2012 for the Hillside community. The other is a repaint of the East 43rd Street Bridge.

8. Report Back

A. Landmarks Preservation Commission

6:43 pm (01:37:32)

Commissioner Elquist reported about activity on the Landmarks Preservation Commission including that they will be discussing the Tacoma Totem Pole on June 12, 5:30 pm in Room 248. The Landmarks



Commission had a conversation about renaming a point off of Point Defiance park after Frank Herbert, the author of Dune. The Preservation Month awards were held on May 30th at Feather & Oar.

B. Advocacy Reports

6:45 pm (01:39:11)

There were no advocacy reports.

C. Arts Events Attended

6:45 pm (01:39:20)

Commissioners shared arts events they had attended or been involved with including attending a performance of Bluebeard; the Jason Lee art show; The Grand Cinema's film camp; Paul Rucker's Human Rights Legacy project dedication at Peoples Park; Grit City Grindhouse's grand opening coming up on July 21, 7 – 9 pm; and appearing on TV Tacoma's CityLine show featuring TAIP artists and the Tacoma Poet Laureate program.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm

