

MINUTES

Park, Arts & Culture Committee Meeting
Tuesday, September 29, 2015 – 5:30-7:00PM
Fletcher Room, Fletcher Free Library

Participants

Committee Members:

- Councilor Dave Hartnett, Chair, North District (DH)
- Councilor Karen Paul, Ward 6 (KP)

Staff:

- Kath Laing, Strategic Development, FFL (KL)
- Kirsten Merriman Shapiro, Special Projects Manager, CEDO (KMS)
- Rubi Simon, Library Director, Fletcher Free Library (RS)

Others:

- James Lockridge

1. Approval of agenda & draft minutes from 8/27 (5 min)

Motion to approve agenda (with two changes: deletion of point 3 & 5) and draft minutes (KP/DH); approved.

2. Public Forum (5 min)

James Lockridge spoke during public forum, after which he provided the Councilors with a written statement of his comments. His written statement follows:

“PACC Priorities relative to BCA: Please include community experience & wisdom by providing a conversational public input process.

The new direct oversight of BCA elections by a PACC member backtracks on the city council President’s objective of relieving councilors of excess time obligations. It preserves the status quo at BCA of limits on informed engagement by the community.

The city council is responsible for oversight of BCA yet isn’t in the public record as having asserted any guidance or direction, including principles of inclusion and engagement, for a period extending back over a decade (per the City Attorney). Over the past year we’ve watched the BCA add limits on engagement, not adopt a worldview of purposeful community engagement:

- Created permanent board seats
- No emergence of transparent, representative elections.

- No protocol for partnership with community organizations
- After a year of requests, no BCA board contact info has been published

In conversations with Doreen and with the BCA executive committee it was explained to me that when invited to have conversations about the issue of public engagement, transparency, and equity, the lack of response from BCA board members was the response itself. That as a constituent, a two- to three-minute statement during public comment at the beginning of meetings, “was the conversation.” If the city council doesn’t address this attitude directly, to correct it from the standpoint of common courtesy, professionalism, and BCA having a duty to be responsive to the community as our city arts office, then the council will be endorsing this behavior.

I went to the Executive Committee meeting on Friday to offer suggestions for how to provide a sense of actual engagement of BCA by publishing board candidate biographies and partnering with community organizations to promote board seat vacancies to diverse stakeholder communities. I explained that their perspective as a traditionally independent 501(c)(3) is at odds with expectations of constituents for an open, democratic, transparently governed municipal office, and I pointed out that BCA members don’t vote for their board members; taxpayers don’t vote for their board members; and that the BCA board still self-elects itself, without representation.

This status quo is a tragic anachronism of entitlement and patronage and the city council should be active in evolving BCA toward authentic public engagement, starting with basing the directives the council gives BCA on values. The council hasn’t yet demanded in clear terms that it expects the city’s generous support of the arts be steered in a fair manner.

The BCA board exists to advise the mayor’s appointed arts office director. Why would the city council not ensure that our arts community play a role within a fair and representative system that actively seeks their engagement rather than limits it? It’s a fair question.”

- Councilor Hartnett would like to put this discussion on the November agenda. Councilor Hartnett reports that Councilor Colburn would like this issue to be addressed at this level.

3. Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Update – agenda item deleted during agenda approval as staff from BPRW was not present at the meeting. An update from Director Bridges, sent by email prior to the meeting, can be found as Attachment 1 to these minutes.

4. Fletcher Free Library Update

- Strategic Plan – currently compiling data from community engagement to date – survey, community forums and focus groups. Community engagement will continue as an integral part of the strategic plan. October 7th and 8th consultant will be in town to facilitate three sessions with staff, commissioners and steering committee. The output of these sessions will be the definition of our strategic goals and objectives based on community engagement results. This draft strategic planning content will be reviewed by the Mayor’s Office.
- Teen Librarian recruitment – interviews with top 10 candidates are being carried out this week and next. Selection committee comprised Youth Librarian, Department of Libraries, BPRW and HR representatives.
- Security at the library – Director Simon discussed the status of ongoing security issues at the library and several options that are being looked into to help mitigate these issues.
- In mid-October the library will be closing the Main Reading Room and the Computer Center for a week for capital improvements.

5. **BCA Update** – agenda item deleted during agenda approval as staff from BCA was not present at the meeting.

6. **CEDO / PIAP Update**

- Ken Braverman has taken the lead on the negotiations with Marina and New Moran since Nate Wildfire's departure and until new staff is hired. Ken Braverman is willing to come to PACC meeting to update on progress.

7. **Other items**

- Councilor Hartnett requests everyone to inform him and KL of availability for meetings prior to the day of the meeting in order to reschedule if necessary. Time and effort goes into coordinating meetings and it is disappointing when Departments are not represented.
- Councilor Hartnett asks Committee Members and Department staff to provide input to the Ordinance Committee on the issue of smoking in public parks. The Ordinance Committee will be taking this issue up.
- Councilor Hartnett requested the following items be put on the agenda of the October PACC meeting:
 - Update from New Moran team on fundraising
 - Vendors at North Beach and Leddy to make a proposal to sell alcohol and make improvements to snack bar
 - Update on dirt pile at Leddy. Currently waiting for results. Goal is for pile to be removed by winter.

8. **Next meeting** – October 20th

9. **Adjournment**

- Motion to adjourn (DH/KP); approved.
- Meeting adjourned at 6:10PM.