



**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ARTS, CULTURE AND RECREATION SPC MEETING**

**HELD ON MONDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2018**

**Members:**

Cllr. Vincent Jackson (Chair)  
Cllr. Greg Kelly  
Cllr. Séan Paul Mahon  
Cllr. Claire Byrne  
Cllr. Mary Freehill  
Cllr. Aine Clancy  
Cllr John Lyons  
Cllr Damien O'Farrell  
Cllr Séamas McGrattan  
Cllr Anne Feeney  
Cllr Claire O'Connor  
Gerry Kerr, National Council for the  
Blind of Ireland  
Sarah Costigan, The Little Museum of  
Dublin  
Conor McQuillan, Public Participation  
Network  
Willie White, Dublin Theatre Festival  
Jenny Murray, Childrens Books  
Ireland

**Apologies:**

Cllr Rebecca Moynihan  
Ciara Higgins, Royal Irish Academy of  
Music

**Other Members Present:**

Cllr Mannix Flynn

**Officials present:**

Richard Shakespeare, Assistant Chief  
Executive  
Margaret Hayes, City Librarian  
Leslie Moore, City Parks Superintendent  
Brendan Teeling, Deputy City Librarian,  
Jim Beggan, Senior Executive Officer  
Donncha O' Dulaing, Senior Executive  
Officer  
Ruairi O'Cuiv, Public Art Manager  
Steven O'Gara, Senior Economic  
Development Officer  
Angela Cassidy, Divisional Librarian  
Jackie O'Reilly, Administrative Officer  
Minutes by Paula Ebbs

The Chair thanked Margaret Hayes, City Librarian for her exemplary work and huge contribution made to the development of the library service. Members expressed their deep appreciation and wished Margaret well on her retirement after 41 years service.

Cllr Jackson, Chair opened the meeting then nominated Cllr McGrattan to take the Chair as he had a prior appointment.

1. Minutes of meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

**Action:** Agreed. Gerry Kerr wished to have his objection under item no. 4 “Review of the Passport for Leisure and Over 65’s Scheme” noted.

Cllr Freehill informed members that she was advised that the Volunteer Award Scheme may not proceed in 2018. Members felt that this very worthwhile scheme should be allowed to continue.

**Action:** Bring an update of this Scheme to the next SPC meeting or notify members of progress in the interim.

2. Presentation on a Community Engagement Approach to Implementing the Dublin City Biodiversity Action Plan 2015 – 2020 – Niamh Ní Cholmáin, Biodiversity Officer for Community Engagement

Niamh gave an overview of a community engagement strategy that raises awareness of biodiversity and helps protect the city’s nature and wildlife.

**Action:** Presentation welcomed and noted by members.

3. Verbal update on the new over 60’s Discount Scheme – Jim Beggan, Senior Executive Officer.

The Senior Executive Officer apologised to members that his report would not be available until the next SPC as the meeting with members only took place on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> May.

**Action:** Bring report to next meeting.

4. Update Report on the George Bernard Shaw House – Brendan Teeling, Deputy City Librarian

Management informed members that the Chief Valuer’s Office has finalised negotiations with Failte Ireland who currently hold the premises under a 200 year lease. The matter has been referred to the Law Agent for preparation of the legal documents. City Architects expect to commence the Statutory Approval process by the end of June, with a view to having City Council approval by November and tender documentation ready by the end of the year.

**Action:** Get update from Law Agents on timeline and inform Cllr. Freehill. Report Noted.

5. Verbal update on the Artists Workspaces – Ray Yeates, City Arts Officer

Management informed the Committee that in recent times many studios have been closed down throughout the city and artists’ workspaces are no longer available to the people who had them. There is also a deficit in spaces coming to the market due to the various pressures on housing and the private rental sector. A Committee has been formed which consists of the DCC’s Arts Office, Planning & Development, Dept. of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and the Arts Council and have begun to address this matter. Five sites have now been identified which are located in Dublin 1 and Dublin 8 areas and can now go forward for a feasibility study.

**Action:** Noted – Progress report to be brought to future meeting.

6. Report on the Implementation of the Cultural Strategy – Ray Yeates, City Arts Officer

Management gave an update on the action of the Cultural Strategy which talks about the cultural rights of the child. The Young Dublin Assembly Event will take place on 15<sup>th</sup> June in the Mansion House. This event will showcase how Dublin City Council works with creativity, culture, play and with Arts, Community and Cultural organisations to support children and their families.

**Action:** Noted.

Cllr Flynn raised the matter of a dedicated park / green space for children.

**Action:** Les Moore, City Parks Superintendent to contact the Councillor directly to discuss.

7. Verbal update on the New City Library at Parnell Square – Margaret Hayes, Dublin City Librarian

As part of the process of preparing the Environmental Impact Statement to accompany the planning application, a consultation matrix is currently in preparation. This will document all aspects of project consultation to date. In order to allow time for the production of the planning submission, project design freeze was set for May 11<sup>th</sup>.

Some members requested more information on the rising costs of the project.

**Action:** Bring a breakdown of the latest funding costs/financial report to the next meeting.

8. Dublin City Local Economic and Community Plan 2016 – 2021 Culture Recreation and Economic Services Action Plan 2018.

The current draft Action Plan for 2018 was circulated to the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC). The 2016 Action Plan had 404 actions attached to it. Last year it was reduced to 303 actions. The current Plan has 147 actions which will be a more efficient way of delivering the Plan. It is hoped to condense it further for the years 2019 – 2021. Once the draft plan has been type-set and desktop published, it can then go forward to the full Council in June.

**Action:** Noted.

9. Motion submitted by Cllr Mary Freehill, Cllr Dermot Lacey, Cllr Alison Gilliland and Cllr Rebecca Moynihan

*“That the Arts SPC formally embark on a discussion regarding freedom and tolerance of artistic expression. Furthermore develops a review mechanism that will adjudicate on any activities or programmes where there is a divergence of views in relation to inclusion of a performance on any Programme run by DCC”*

10. Motion submitted by Cllr John Lyons

*“Noting with grave concern the decision taken by Dublin City Council officials to cancel a literary event in which participants had been invited to discuss the concept of protest art, their approach to writing about the body and art and the impact of the movement for reproductive rights on arts and culture in Ireland, as part of the programme of the International Literary Festival Dublin 2018;*

*Acknowledging also the disquiet expressed by many Dublin writers and artists that this decision sets a dangerous precedent for intellectual discourse and artistic freedom.*

*The elected representatives and other members of this arts committee call on Dublin City Council management to reverse the decision and immediately re-instate “The Question of the Eight” event, due to take place on May 21<sup>st</sup>”.*

The Chair decided to discuss the two Motions together.

Following a detailed discussion, members broadly supported both Motions. Management informed members that having viewed options, DCC could not be seen to interfere with the integrity of the referendum. It could also be seen to contravene the Code of Conduct for Local Authority employees (who are directly organising and funding this festival) in their responsibility to remain politically neutral. The Supreme Court (as in the McKenna Judgement in 1995) ruled that public monies may not be used to support either side of a referendum. The cancellation of this festival was due to a unique set of circumstances and is not an attempt to suppress intellectual discourse or artistic freedom but to ensure compliance by Local Authority employees with their Code of Conduct and Court findings with regard to impartiality by public bodies in a referendum. Consideration will be given in future direct programming of Dublin City Council events to issuing a set of guidelines for City Council officials and curators involved.

**Action:** Both Motions were agreed. Members were considering submitting an Emergency Motion at the City Council meeting later that evening.

#### 11. Management Update

**Action:** Noted.

#### 12. Approved Minutes of the Arts and Cultural Advisory Group meeting held 17<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

**Action:** Agreed

#### 13. Approved Minutes of the Commemorations Sub-Committee meeting held 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018.

**Action:** Agreed

#### 14. Approved Minutes of the Commemorative Naming Committee meeting held 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018.

**Action:** Agreed

#### 15. Approved Minutes of Dublin City Sports and Wellbeing Partnership Advisory Board meeting held 5<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

**Action:** Agreed

#### 16. Breviate of Draft Minutes of the Commemorations Sub-Committee meeting held 29<sup>th</sup> March 2018

**Action:** Agreed

17. Breviate of Draft Minutes of the Commemorative Naming Committee meeting held 29<sup>th</sup> March 2108.

**Action:** Agreed

18. Breviate of draft Minutes of the Arts and Cultural Advisory Group meeting held 5<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

19. Breviate of draft Minutes of Dublin City Sports and Wellbeing Partnership Advisory Board meeting held 11<sup>th</sup> April 2018

**Action:** Agreed

20. Breviate of draft Minutes of the Artists Workspaces Sub-Group meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2018.

21. A.O.B.

Cllr Flynn informed members of a document that was presented at the Housing SPC regarding social housing and the possibility of rejuvenation and potential demolition, and the implications for built heritage and the architectural merit of such buildings. He asked that this SPC take a special interest and to have a look at de-listing in order to make interventions on these buildings.

**Action:** Discussion paper report on Regeneration and Development Proposals for Dublin City Council apartment complexes submitted to the Housing SPC meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2018 to be circulated to members. Arts, Culture and Recreation SPC may seek a presentation from Housing and Community Services if required.

Some members requested an update on Markets. The Manager addressed these queries. Cllr O'Farrell requested information / clarity on markets in parks.

**Action:** Bring report / presentation on markets in parks to the next meeting.

Gerry Kerr stated that with regard to a Part VIII on Cathedral Street and Sackville Place to contact him as Chairperson of the Disability Linkage Group for updates.

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**Cllr Séamas McGrattan,  
Chairperson**