



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council

Report to Arts, Culture, Leisure
and Recreation SPC

17th May 2021

Item No. 18

**BREVIATE OF DRAFT MINUTES OF THE COMMEMORATIONS & NAMING
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MICROSOFT TEAMS, THURSDAY 25TH MARCH
2021**

Members:

Cllr. Micheál Mac Donncha (Chairperson)
Cllr. Cat O'Driscoll
Cllr. Seamus McGrattan
Cllr. Larry O'Toole
Cllr. Mary Callaghan
Cllr. Nial Ring
Cllr. Cieran Perry
Cllr Mannix Flynn
Cllr. Donna Cooney
Cllr. Vincent Jackson
Cllr. Paddy McCartan

Apologies: Julian De Spainn, Paula Ebbs,
Charles Duggan

Officials present:

Brendan Teeling, Deputy City Librarian
Grainne Kelly, Administrative Officer
Tara Doyle, Senior Librarian
Margarita Cappock, Assistant Arts Officer
Donncha O'Dulaing, Senior Executive
Officer

Denice Kirwan - Minutes

1. Minutes of meeting 28th January 2021

No matters arising.

Action: Minutes agreed.

**2. Motion submitted in the name of Councillor Mannix Flynn:- (Referred from the
Arts, Culture, Leisure and Recreation SPC dated 15th February 2021)**

"That this committee of DCC support the erection of a plaque to commemorate and honour the actions of Violet Gibson who shot Mussolini wounding him in 1926. Born in Dalkey and raised in Merrion Square, Violet Gibson was a committed anti-fascist. After Gibson's failed attempt, she was set upon by Mussolini's supporters, and would likely have been lynched had the police not stepped in and arrested her. She suffered various cruelties and indignities within the fascist prison system, and was then deported to England, sparing the Italians the embarrassment of a public trial. Her family had secretly arranged to have her committed to an asylum – St. Andrew's Hospital in Northampton, where Lucia Joyce, James Joyce's daughter, would later be committed. Despite repeated pleas for her freedom, she spent the rest of her life in St. Andrew's, dying in 1956. It suited both the British authorities and her family to have her seen as "insane" rather than as political. It is now time to bring Violet Gibson into the public's eye and give her rightful place in the history of Irish women and in the rich history of the Irish nation and its people.

It was noted that an application form had been submitted, but the permission of the owner of the building at 12 Merrion Square, was awaited. The Committee approved the application, subject to the approval of the owners of the building being given.

Action: It was agreed that correspondence in relation to this application could be circulated and approved by e-mail before the next CNC meeting.

**3. Motion submitted in the names of Cllr Nial Ring and Cllr Cieran Perry:-
(Referred from the Arts, Culture, Leisure and Recreation SPC 30th November 2020) - Update**

“This committee agrees that the Royal Canal Bridge at Russell Street, currently named Clonliffe Bridge/Russell Street Bridge, be officially re-named as “Bloody Sunday Bridge” in commemoration of the events at Croke Park on 21st November 2020 when 14 innocent civilians were killed by RIC/Auxiliaries/Black and Tans.”

Officials reported that the bridge is in ownership of Dublin City Council. There is no record of a formal naming of this bridge. It was noted that under the commemorations & naming policy, consultation must take place before a bridge can be named. Officials will contact the Area Office to commence a consultation process in the Central Area.

Action: Cllr. Nial Ring to forward a list of contacts to Brendan Teeling to facilitate the consultation process.

4. Verbal update on the Kathleen Clarke Portrait – Brendan Teeling, Deputy City Librarian

It was reported that eight proposals had been submitted. The selection Committee will meet to evaluate the proposals and select the artist to be awarded the commission. It was noted that, due to Covid guidelines, it may be necessary for the committee members to view the proposals individually, rather than in a group.

Action: Report to next meeting.

5. Verbal Update on a Proposal for a Statue to Countess Markievicz – Donncha Ó Dúlaing, Senior Executive Officer – Update

Donncha gave an overview of the proposed location median in O’Connell Street and communication with TII who are keen to facilitate the project as well as improving the finish to the landscape of the area. Discussion was held about a number of other sites for the statue. Depth of foundations, Luas lines, trees and footfall in the area need to be taken into account and further communication with TII will be required.

Action: Donncha to take comments on board and report back to the next meeting.

6. Plaques/Monuments/Memorials/Infrastructure Proposals

a) Application for a Monument to the Irish WW1 Veterans and Killester Garden Village – Update

The Committee was in favour of commemorating the housing scheme and the First World War veterans, but did not approve of the memorial as proposed. It was agreed that benches and a plaque would be more appropriate. It was noted that Parks will need to be involved.

Action: Officials to contact the proposer to discuss alternative designs and report back to next meeting.

b) Ballyfermot Heritage Group – Plaque Application

The application meets the criteria and was approved by the committee.

Action: Final wording to be agreed.

c) Detective Sergeant Patrick McKeown & Detective Garda Richard Hyland – Plaque Application

The application meets the criteria and was approved by the committee.

Action: Final wording to be agreed (similar wording used for Garda Richard Fallon).

d) Seosamh Mac Grianna, Irish Language Writer – Plaque Application

The application meets the criteria and was approved by the committee. The proposed location is Council property and it was noted that a site visit would be required to confirm the exact site for the plaque.

Action: Report to meeting following site visit.

e) James Kinsella, Irish Republican – Plaque Application

The application meets the criteria and was approved by the committee.

Action: Final wording to be agreed.

f) Fitzwilliam Lawn Tennis Club – Plaque Application

The application meets the criteria and was approved by the committee. Conservation approval may be required. Original location to be confirmed as well as the use of the term Ladies/Women.

Action: Brendan Teeling to talk to the Club and final wording to be agreed.

g) Margaret Keogh – Plaque Application

The application meets the criteria and was approved by the committee. It was noted that the ownership of the wall needs to be confirmed.

Action: Report to next meeting.

h) Violet Gibson – Plaque Application

See item 2 above.

Action: Report to next meeting.

i) Frederick Douglass – Plaque Application

Application to be submitted. Site visit to Irish Film Centre is required. Agreed in principle.

Action: Report to next meeting.

7. Request for support for proposed memorial on the site of the Stardust fire.

This item was deferred to the next meeting. Members were of the strong opinion that consultation with the survivors and families was crucial. The Chair undertook to work with committee members and officials to ensure that the necessary consultation takes place.

Action: Chair and officials to consider consultation. Circulate document relating to the proposal to the committee.

8. Exhumations of the 5 members of the Irish National Invincibles (Referred from the Arts, Culture, Leisure & Recreation SPC dated 15th February 2021)

The committee agreed to support the motion.

Action: Chairperson to write to the Minister in support of the exhumations.

9. Memorialisation for lives lost to the pandemic (for discussion)

The committee agreed to put this proposal on hold as it was too early for such a memorial, as the pandemic is still ongoing. It was agreed that a period of time for reflection was needed, and that consideration of the scale of any memorial would be needed, taking into account any national approach. It was agreed that a programme of events should be included as well as any physical installation. It was also noted that the Chief Medical Officer is to receive the Freedom of the City.

Action: Noted.

10. Commemorations Programme

Noted.

Action: Circulate to committee.

11. Review of Policy for Commemorative Naming of Infrastructure and the Provision of Monuments, Memorials and Plaques

The current position was outlined to the committee. It was requested that the legal basis for this process, an executive function, be presented to the next meeting. It was suggested that the committee make a submission to the new Development Plan requesting that this committee be responsible for the naming of new large impact developments.

Action: Retain on the agenda and report to next meeting.

12. A.O.B.

- Ensure there is no overlap of dates for SPC meetings and this committee
- Liam Whelan Statue in Cabra: This committee should consider the application in principle prior to contact with TII.
- Historical Talks: Recent talks were well received.
- Moore St Area: Commercial Developers offering forums the opportunity to name certain developments
- Kilmainham Gaol: Works at hotel is by the Artist Ronan Gillespie and is well worth a visit.

Cllr Micheál Mac Donncha
Chairperson

