



MINUTES OF THE ARTS, CULTURE, LEISURE AND RECREATION SPC MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 26TH FEBRUARY 2024

Members:

Cllr. Cat O'Driscoll (Chair)
Cllr. Claire Byrne
Cllr. Fiona Connelly
Cllr. Declan Flanagan
Cllr. Deirdre Heney
Cllr. Vincent Jackson
Cllr Darragh Moriarty
Cllr. Seamus McGrattan
Cllr Patricia Roe
Cllr Micheál Mac Donncha
Cllr. Damian O'Farrell

Julian de Spáinn, Conradh na Gaeilge
Adekunle Gomez, African Cultural Project
Sunil Sharpe, Give us the Night
Ciaran Taylor, White Cane Audio Theatre
Ross Keane, Irish Film Institute
Mary O'Connor, Federation of Irish Sport

Apologies:

Willie White, Dublin Theatre Festival
Anthony Flynn, A/Assistant Chief Executive

Officials present:

Mary MacSweeney, A/Executive Manager
Mairead Owens, City Librarian
Les Moore, City Parks Superintendent
Donncha Ó Dúlaing, Senior Executive Officer
Ciara O hAodha, Senior Executive Officer
Barbara Dawson, Director, Hugh Lane Gallery
Brendan Teeling, Deputy City Librarian
Ray Yeates, City Arts Officer
Iseult Dunne, DCC Cultural Company

Others present:

Cllr James Geoghegan

Others in Attendance:

Brian MccNiece & James Cahill - Teneo
Tom Lawlor & Maria Schweppe
- Bram Stoker Festival

Minutes by Suzanne McClurg

1. Draft Minutes of Meeting held on 27th November 2023

Action: Agreed

2. Presentation - Dublin City Council Sports Plan 2023 – 2028, Brian MacNiece, TENE0 & Donncha O'Dúlaing, Senior Executive Officer2

Action: Draft report welcomed. Audit on green spaces to follow.

3. Presentation – Bram Stoker Festival - Tom Lawlor & Maria Schweppe

Action: Welcomed and noted.

4. Hugh Lane Gallery- Andy Warhol: Three Times Out Exhibition – Barbara Dawson, Director Hugh Lane Gallery

Action: Welcomed and congratulated on a hugely successful exhibition. Presentation will be circulated to all members.

5. Draft Policy on Political and Protest Events –Leslie Moore, Head of Parks, Biodiversity and Landscape Services

Action: Members requested more information. It was agreed that further discussion was required and a more detailed report would be submitted to the SPC.

6. Motion submitted by Cllr. Deirdre Heney:

That this Committee agrees to amend Dublin City Council's Parks Bye-Laws by inserting the following Paragraph:-

"That Dogs in parks and open spaces shall be kept on a leash, other than in areas designated as off-leash areas, or at times specified by the City Council. Dogs must be kept under effectual control at all times. Dogs (other than guide dogs or assistance dogs) shall not be permitted in public playgrounds. A person shall not cause or allow any Restricted Breed, as defined in the Control of Dogs Regulations 1998 (as amended) belonging to him/her, or in his/her charge to enter or remain in the park unless such dog is kept securely muzzled and led on a sufficiently strong leash not exceeding two metres in length by a competent person over 16 years of age."

Reply:

It is acknowledged that our Parks Bye Laws need to be reviewed and updated. The requirement "That Dogs in parks and open spaces shall be kept on a leash, other than in areas designated as off-leash areas" would be a beneficial change which would give local communities and neighbourhoods greater say over what parks and what areas of parks would be best suited for dogs off lead. We are trialling this in St Anne's park and the North Bull Island at present.

The process for making and changing Bye Laws is a statutory process contained in Part 19 of the Local Government Act 2001 and the Local Government Act 2001 (Bye-laws) Regulations 2006. It involves a public consultation which would undoubtedly generate a great deal of comment, feedback and stakeholder engagement. At present the Parks Service is not in a position to commence such a resource heavy process but this review could commence in Q3 2024.

Leslie Moore
Head of Parks, Biodiversity and Landscape Services

Action: Noted and agreed - there will be a review of Bye Laws in 2024.

7. Motion submitted by Cllr James Geoghegan

That it is agreed;

- *that the decision of the Subcommittee established to explore cultural uses and occupancy of the former DIT School of Music on Chatham Row, as communicated in the report to the SPC on the 27th of November 2023 at item 10 is quashed, and cannot be relied upon by any party;*
- *that the resident artists of the Dean Arts Studio, who currently occupy the premises on Chatham Row, be provided an opportunity to present to the full Arts, Culture, Leisure & Recreation SPC in respect of their residency in the studio; and*
- *Dublin City Council Law Agent to carry out a review on the specific powers and procedures of the Arts, Culture, Leisure & Recreation SPC or a Subcommittee of that*

SPC, to restrict the legal right of the Dean Arts Studio to negotiate a lease with the Property section of Dublin City Council.

Reply:

It is the role for the SPC to make policy determinations and to ask the Executive to ensure best practice in the implementation of policy. Standing Subcommittees exist for the Irish Language, Commemoration and Arts and Cultural Policy amongst others and it was therefore understandable that, following debate on the occupation of the former school of Music on Chatham Row by the Dean Arts Studio, a Subcommittee was formed to look at the long term use of this building.

This Subcommittee listened to proposals from the Executive and asked the City Arts Office to conduct an Open Call process as it had successfully done at 15 Bachelors Walk, Artane Place and the Former Filmbase on Curved Street. This three stage process concluded in December 2023. This process and its outcome is the subject of a report from the Assistant Chief Executive at the February SPC that deals with the requests to appeal the outcome of the Open call process by applicants who were not successful at interview.

This Open Call process does not replace or interfere in the statutory Disposal process as the successful applicant will not be offered a lease but a short term Licence to ensure successful occupancy and if successful then a recommendation from the Executive for a lease may be forthcoming.

The Dean Arts Studio participated in all phases of the Open Call that set out set out the process and its consequences clearly and the decision of the Assessment Panel was agreed by all parties to be final.

Ray Yeates
City Arts Officer.

Action: This item was discussed as part of Item 12 on the agenda.
Motion was rejected.

8. Motion submitted by Cllr Fiona Connelly

“The Arts SPC recognises that DCC has an extremely well run library service, sports, recreation and other community facilities that are key to the active engagement, social inclusion and well-being of many of our many families and citizens in our city. The Arts SPC also recognises the growing demand for the extension of the opening hours for these services and facilities especially for our younger citizens in the evenings, during school holiday periods and at weekends. The Arts SPC therefore commits to developing and implementing a strategic plan to ensure this expansion of opening hours over the coming year”.

Reply:

Dublin City Libraries operate 21 branches across the city and all are open over 6 days per week.

- 8 branches are open for 54 hours per week, including until 8 p.m. Monday to Thursday
- 11 branches are open for 42 hours per week, including until 8 p.m. two evenings a week
- 2 branches are open for 42 hours per week, closing at 5 p.m.

- 2 My Open Library (MOLs) branches provide extended opening hours on an unstaffed basis, from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week, 365 days a year. This service will extend to another two branches during 2024.

Planning for the next Library Development Plan is underway and will be completed by year end. Opening hours will be addressed under improvement to service delivery.

Dublin City Sports & Recreational Facilities provide services to the community in many instances 7 days a week. Our larger leisure facilities are generally open for 88 hours a week to cater for all of the community. We have in recent months completed a full recruitment programme across our services and following all pending appointments we will be in a position to increase services in the small number of centres that have been adversely impacted by staff shortages in recent years.

As part of the development and implementation of the new Dublin City Sports Plan our operational model will be examined in order to provide maximum services to all in the most flexible way going forward.

Mairead Owens
Dublin City Librarian

Donncha O'Dúlaing
Senior Executive Officer

Action: Agreed.

9. Motion submitted by Cllr Cat O'Driscoll

"That this committee agrees to progress the delivery of a full sized accessible sports pitch at Marrowbone Lane Dublin 8 and the development of the playing facilities at Teresa's Gardens. Dublin 8 is lacking open space and data shows young girls are playing more team sports and we need more facilities in the city to cater for this. The Sporting Liberties Campaign has had drawings made up and are eager to meet council management to progress the plans".

Reply:

The Marrowbone Lane Depot provides key operational services for the successful functioning of the City. It is planned to continue the delivery of these services from Marrowbone Lane for the foreseeable future. The future redevelopment of the Marrowbone Lane site is some time away and it is therefore considered to be premature to begin developing design proposals for the site.

DCC and the LDA are partnering in developing a mixed use scheme of 543 homes on the site of the Former St. Teresa's Gardens lands. Planning was granted for this development in June 2023. Contractor procurement is underway and construction will commence this year. The Development will be delivered in phases to 2028.

As part of these works DCC are developing a new municipal pitch, changing rooms and boxing club.

A planning application was submitted to An Bord Pleanála for the municipal pitch, changing rooms and boxing club last year. A decision on this was due to be determined by November 2023. However no decision has been made to date and there is no indication of date for such decision.

In lieu of this, DCC intend submitting a planning application for the development of Municipal pitch and changing rooms through a Part 8 Planning route. Once planning is granted DCC will jointly develop the pitch and changing rooms with the LDA as part of the overall delivery of the mixed use scheme outlined above. Currently DCC Housing are working closely with Sporting Liberties in agreeing their requirements for pitch

(GAA, 2 No. Juvenile soccer and 1 adult soccer), changing rooms and boxing club. It is intended to accommodate these at the Donore location.

Bruce Philips
Area Manager

Martin Donlan
Senior Architect

Action: Agreed.

10. Update Report on DCC Cultural Company – Iseult Dunne, CEO, Dublin City Culture Company

Action: Agreed and noted.

11. Update on City Library – Mairead Owens, City Librarian

Action: Agreed and noted.

12. Report on Chatham Row former School of Music – Anthony Flynn, A/Assistant Chief Executive

Agenda item number 7 (motion) was also discussed. It was reiterated that the standard of applications submitted was extremely impressive. The process allowed for the executive function to negotiate terms for occupation of this Council buildings through the management of the Open Call process. The policy function of the SPC members was fulfilled through the Working Group and recommendation that an Open Call process be instigated. The Open Call process was carried out by the executive and it facilitated the participation of a number of the members of the Working Group. Some aspects of the process could be improved upon, if a similar process is used in the future. The nature of the process may have led to the belief that the Arts SPC was the entity running the process, when is incorrect as the process was led by the executive with the support of the Arts SPC.

Action: Agreed.

Motion was rejected.

13. Report on Axis Ballymun – Ray Yeates, City Arts Officer

Action: Noted

14. Report on the funding of 8 and 9 Merchants Quay Project - Ray Yeates, City Arts Officer

Action: Noted.

15. Terms of Reference for the Project Oversight Group on 8 and 9 Merchants Quay

Action: Noted.

16. Management Update

Action: Noted.

17. Approved Minutes of the Commemorations and Naming Committee dated 23rd November 2023

Action: Noted.

18. Draft Minutes of the Arts and Cultural Advisory Group meeting dated 29th January 2024

Action: Noted.

19. Proposed change of date of next meeting from Monday 27th May to Wednesday 1st May 2024 at 9.30am

Action: Noted.

20. A.O.B

Action: Report on D-Light Studios will be circulated through the 5 Area Committees.