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## Public Art Subcommittee

### OPEN MINUTES

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**Minutes of a meeting of the Public Art Subcommittee held in Kauri Room, Municipal Building, Garden Place, Hamilton on Friday 29 July 2016 at 3:00pm.**

#### PRESENT

Chairperson	Her Worship Mayor J Hardaker
Members	Cr G Chesterman Cr P Yeung
In Attendance	Lance Vervoort, General Manager Community Nick Johnston, Strategic Advisor (Arts and Culture) Sally Sheedy, Parks and Open Spaces Manager  Margaret Evans, Waikato Combined Equestrian Group Noeline Jeffries, Waikato Combined Equestrian Group Mavora Hamilton, TOTI Trust
Committee Advisor	Deborah Smith

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#### 1. Apologies

Cr A O'Leary tendered apologies for the meeting.

**Resolved:** (Her Worship the Mayor Hardaker/Cr Yeung)

That the Subcommittee accept the apologies.

#### 2. Confirmation of Agenda

A new Item – Public Forum – was added to the agenda to allow representatives from the Waikato Combined Equestrian Group and TOTI Trust to speak to Item 5 – Waikato Combined Equestrian Group – War Horse Memorial.

**Resolved:** (Her Worship the Mayor Hardaker/Cr Chesterman)

That the Subcommittee confirm the agenda with the amendment above.

### **3. Declarations of Interest**

No members of the Committee declared a Conflict of Interest.

### **4. Public Art Subcommittee - Open Minutes - 17 November 2015**

**Resolved:** (Her Worship the Mayor Hardaker/ Cr Chesterman)

That: the Subcommittee confirm and adopt as a true and correct record the Open Minutes of the Public Art Subcommittee Meeting held on 17 November 2015.

The additional Item as agreed in the confirmation of the agenda was taken next.

### **NEW ITEM Public Forum**

*Margaret Evans* – Waikato Combined Equestrian Group

The only outstanding topic of discussion is the site that the War Horse installation would be placed at. The site preferred by the Waikato Combined Equestrian Group and TOTI Trust is Site 1 (to replace the existing picnic table). Placing the War Horse here will create a “cluster” of memorials with a nice movement between each. There would be no impacts on existing events from placing the installation here.

There had been some discussion with Officers as to the possibility of placing the War Horse so that it is surrounded by grass, as opposed to being on a small plinth. Some concern around mowing accessibility had been raised. The Public Art Panel would prefer that the Horse appear to be standing directly on grass as this would be much more visually engaging. While recognising the aesthetic appeal of the Horse being on grass, the TOTI Trust would be happy with either option.

*Mavora Hamilton* – TOTI Trust (*Bill McArthur*, TOTI Trust Chief Executive, tendered his apologies)

A site visit of all three proposed sites for the War Horse was undertaken recently and Site 1 was found to be most visually appealing.

*Noeline Jeffries* – Waikato Combined Equestrian Group

Her Worship the Mayor invited Noeline Jeffries to speak as the initiator of the Project. Noeline reminded the Subcommittee that it was in 2012 that Rodney Martin first raised the concept of recognising the significant contribution of horses in war. He drew together multiple equestrian groups in support of the idea. It would be extremely meaningful to have Mr Martin’s conception brought to life.

The speakers were thanked for their time in joining the meeting.

### **5. Waikato Combined Equestrian Group - War Horse Memorial**

The General Manager Community advised that maintenance around the installation was a minor issue. The visual appeal of the War Horse standing on grass was understood and arrangements could be made for mowing to allow for this.

There are a number of options that could be explored to keep the immediate area presentable despite heavy foot traffic. Either site was workable from this perspective.

The Strategic Advisor (Arts And Culture) noted that the Public Art Panel and staff prefer Site 3 as a location. This would create a line of monuments, allow for 360 degree engagement with the piece, and would be less 'cluttered' while still in the 'line of sight' of the Cenotaph. It would extremely poignant in terms of how the piece would be 'read' in relation to the other memorials within the Park. However there were no serious concerns about any of the sites.

It was confirmed that there is money within the existing Public Art budget for ongoing maintenance of the bronze.

Some discussion took place around the annual poppy installation for ANZAC Day, which is set up in the vicinity of site 3; it was clarified that this had not been considered at the Public Art Panel meeting.

The Parks and Open Spaces Manager noted that Site 3 would give good visibility of the installation from the road.

Referring to the ANZAC Day celebrations within the Park, it was noted that the St John's ambulance staff have tended to use the existing picnic table at Site 1 as a central point for tending to those who require aid.

At the request of Her Worship the Mayor, Noeline Jeffries spoke to her personal preference for the location. It was reiterated that the Waikato Combined Equestrian Group felt that Site 1 would have greater impact. The War Horse would be visible from the public footpath and may become a destination for visitors.

It was proposed that the War Horse installation be the final addition to the memorials within Memorial Park. Space is increasingly at a premium and any further additions may impact on the sight lines and accessibility of those already in place, creating a 'cluttered' effect.

It was also noted that the proposed pedestrian bridge from Ferrybank is intended to land in the Memorial Park which will also affect the space.

It was agreed that, in keeping with the wishes of the Waikato Combined Equestrian group and the TOTI Trust, along with those others who have invested time and effort into the War Horse Project, the installation be placed at Site 1, replacing the existing barbecue table.

**Resolved:** (Crs Chesterman/Yeung)

- a) That the report be received
- b) That the Waikato Combined Equestrian Group's public art project is approved at Stage 3 of the Public Art Development Process and accepted as a gift to the city.
- c) That the artwork is installed at Site 1, where the existing barbecue table is currently located.
- d) That \$6,000 from the Public Art Support Fund is allocated to support the installation of the artwork, including building and resource consent costs.

**The meeting was declared closed at 3.26 pm**