

City Hall/City Hall Grounds Installations Working Group

Wednesday, 27th November, 2024

THE CITY HALL/CITY HALL GROUNDS INSTALLATIONS WORKING GROUP MINUTES

HELD IN THE CONOR ROOM AND
REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Members present: Councillor Flynn (Chairperson);
Aldermen Rodgers; and
Councillors Beattie and de Faoite.

In attendance: Ms. S. Grimes, Director of Property and Projects;
Ms. K. Mullen, Client Manager; and
Mr. C. Mealey, Committee Services Officer.

Election of Chairperson

Moved by Councillor de Faoite
Seconded by Councillor Beattie, and

Resolved – “That Councillor Flynn be elected to serve as Chairperson of the City Hall/City Hall Grounds Installations Working Group until the date of the Annual Council Meeting in 2025.”

Apologies

No apologies were reported.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 22nd May, 2024 were taken as read and signed as correct.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest recorded.

Installation of LGBT Stained-Glass Window in City Hall

The Client Manager updated the Working Group on the progress in respect of the design, manufacture, and installation of a new stained-glass window in the City Hall that would recognise the LGBT community and its contribution to the City of Belfast.

She reminded Members, that at its meeting on 21st June, 2024, the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee had:

- agreed that the design, manufacture and installation of the LGBT and Health Service window be taken forward as two separate projects;
- agreed that the LGBT window be located in the reception area of the City Hall;
- agreed the Health Service window be located in the North West corridor of the City Hall in one of the free spaces;
- agreed that officers engaged with Bereaved Families to Covid Northern Ireland group to ascertain if they would be happy the request for a memorial wall be incorporated into the design of stained-glass window for Health Service;
- noted that it was proposed that the installation of two stained glass windows was Stage 2 - Uncommitted on the Capital Programme to allow procurement to commence with final approval on designs and costs being taken by Strategic Policy and Resources Committee based on recommendations from Installations: City Hall/City Grounds Working Group. This would be subject to planning and listed building consent being obtained and a satisfactory tender being returned. It was recommended that an indicative budget be set to allow for the process to commence in terms of design, fabrication, and installation. In line with the three stage approval process Members noted that the final budget will only be agreed upon the receipt of a satisfactory tender;
- noted that key stakeholder groups be consulted with in relation to the final design for both windows;
- agreed that design, manufacture, and installation should be undertaken separately for both windows, with two separate procurement processes; and
- agreed that procurement be by way of a two-stage open submission process.

The Members were further reminded of the original notice of motion, considered at the Council meeting on 3rd April, 2017:

“This Council acknowledges the positive role which the LGBT community plays in our City, whose visibility creates a more welcoming and vibrant City. Recognising that one of the Council’s primary aims is to make the environment of the City Hall more balanced, inclusive and reflective of all of the citizens of the City, the Council agrees to commission a stained glass window to celebrate the contribution of our LGBT citizens and install this in an appropriate location in the City Hall.”

The Client Manager suggested that broadening the scope of the original notice of motion would ensure inclusivity and the representation of all groups within the community, given the diversification and expansion of the community since the date of the original notice of motion.

The Working Group noted that, following a two-stage procurement process, a tender had been received from Alpha Stained Glass Limited, and that, subject to artistic visuals being signed off by the end of December, 2024, Alpha Stained Glass Limited had confirmed that they could meet the identified installation date of April, 2025.

The Client Manager presented to the Working Group a preliminary sketch of the stained-glass window and outlined the design and concept.

The Working Group were informed that the feedback received from the recent workshop, that had been facilitated by the Lord Mayor to consider the initial design and concept, had been provided to the artist, and that further engagement would be held between the artist and representatives, to ensure the design and concept met the brief provided.

In respect of the unveiling and associated celebratory event of the new stained - glass window, the Client Manager suggested that the Working Group consider including it as part of a programme of events that would take place to mark the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia, 2025.

During discussion, the Members highlighted the importance of engagement between the artist and key stakeholders in developing the design and concept.

In addition, the Members also highlighted the need to ensure that the design and concept for the new stained-glass window reflected the diversity within the community.

The Director of Property and Projects suggested that, following further engagement between the artist and key stakeholders, the Working Group meet in December to consider the artistic visuals.

After discussion, the Working Group agreed to:

- consider an update on the LGBT stained-glass window, including the artistic visuals, at a special meeting of the Working Group to be held on 11th December, 2024;
- recommend that the scope of the original notice of motion be extended to ensure it is reflective of all groups within the LGBT community; and
- recommend that the unveiling and associated celebratory event of the new stained-glass window be included as part of a programme of events to mark the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia, 2025, subject to the Lord Mayor's Diary.

International Women's Day 2025 – Request from Mary Ann McCracken Foundation to hold event in City Hall

The Working Group approved a request from the Mary Ann McCracken Foundation for the Council to host an event in the City Hall, on 7th March, 2025, as part of International Women's Day celebrations.

Hall of Fame (Alderman Rodgers to raise)

Alderman Rodgers proposed that a display, recognising the significant contribution made by Lady Mary Peters to the city of Belfast, be installed within Belfast City Hall.

The Director of Property and Projects reminded Members of the significant and lengthy engagement between Members and Parties in agreeing both the establishment

of the visitor exhibition, and the memorabilia refresh policy. She added that Lady Mary Peters was represented in the current visitor exhibition.

After discussion, the Working Group agreed that officers would explore options in respect of the potential for any additional recognition of Lady Mary Peters within the exhibition space in Belfast City Hall.

Chairperson