

CITY OF SURPRISE  
ARTS AND CULTURAL ADVISORY COMMISSION

**Meeting Minutes – Approved**

January 7, 2019 / 6:00 PM

COMMUNITY ROOM  
16000 NORTH CIVIC CENTER PLAZA  
SURPRISE, ARIZONA 85374

**CALL TO ORDER:**

**A. Roll Call**

Chair Margaret Lieu, Vice-Chair John Hastings, Commission members, Susan deJong, Sally Wilson-Johnson, Kathie Morgan, Deborah Welch, Rhiannon Miett.

Staff: Paul Bernardo, Director, Danielle Osborne, Management Analyst, Robert Wingo, City Attorney, and Thomas Allen, Sr. Assistant City Attorney

**B. Pledge of Allegiance**

**C. Current Events Reports**

Chair Lieu wished a happy New Year to everyone, welcome to 2019! She went to San Diego for Christmas where she visited an outdoor mixed-use space called UTC, which mixes art and landscaping. She also went to Santa Monica and viewed another mixed-use outdoor space. Additionally, she went to Balboa Park, then took a trip to Tombstone. She also took a trip to Bisbee for the first time, and noted that they preserve the history but modernize it at the same time. Finally, she saw the San Xavier mission, which contained beautiful artwork.

Ms. Morgan attended the George Bush Portraits of Courage, this was her first time at the American Heritage Museum.

Ms. Wilson-Johnson was in Houston, Baton Rouge, and New Orleans. During her trip, she attended a performance of The Nutcracker.

Vice-Chair Hastings went to the Adaptive Christmas Party, where there was a performance by the PEC Choir. He worked on the art survey, which will be distributed to all commissioners for revisions. He met with John Williams, whose new role surrounds community outreach. Finally, he went to the last City Council meeting where the Councilmember for District 5 was appointed.

Ms. Welch hosted the AZ Humanities lecture for the first time, speaker Kevin Schindler did a great job; she had the chance to go to lunch with him after, and discovered that he is working on some great projects. She would highly recommend bringing him back – the event was very well-attended, especially for being around the holiday season. Finally, she and two other commissioners had meetings with Councilmembers about CIP projects.

Ms. Miett visited Murphys, CA and got to see lots of art, as well as Sacramento, CA. There were lots of murals all around. She also went to Theater Works where she saw their puppet show for the first time.

Ms. deJong went to the Lunchtime Theater ProMusica holiday show. She also went to the opening show for the Phoenix art group at WHAM. Additionally, she took part in the CIP meetings for public art with Mayor & Council. She attended the AZ Humanities series, and went to lunch with Kevin Schindler afterwards. In addition, she attended Martin Luther King Day event meetings, and went to the latest Poetry Slam. Finally, she noted that the West Valley Symphony gave the Commission a whole page in their latest pamphlet.

Chair Lieu thanked Vice-Chair Hastings for standing in at the last minute to host the Poetry Slam. The next one is in February.

#### D. **Staff Reports**

Ms. Osborne reported on the following items:

- **Artisan Treasures Holiday Affair (Craft Fair) – Hosted by Wood and Me**
  - February 16<sup>th</sup> – Mark Coronado Park, 9am – 3pm
  - About the event: **155+** vendors selling Holiday Decor, Home Decor, Clothing, Jewelry, Yummy Eats, Vintage, Farmhouse and so much more.

#### **CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

Andy Cepon – attended the Humanities series, great event, wish we could expand the crowd, lecturers are always very engaged with the crowd during and afterwards. Did some travelling over the holidays, noticed the prevalence of arts throughout the communities, Bisbee in particular. Attended the Poetry Slam, attendance should be expanded as well. I'm not a poet or an artist but I enjoy the human interaction involved.

#### **REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS – NON PUBLIC HEARING**

##### **Item 1 – Consideration and action approving the December 3, 2018 Arts and Cultural Advisory Commission Meeting minutes.**

Vice-Chair Hastings moved to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2018 Arts and Cultural Advisory Commission meeting. Ms. deJong 2<sup>nd</sup>. 7 Yes votes. Motion carries.

##### **Item 2 – Presentation by Dysart Unified School District Superintendent Dr. Quinn Kellis.**

Chair Lieu introduced Dr. Kellis, Superintendent of Dysart School District. She noted that Dr. Kellis is a huge supporter of the arts and really wants to highlight that in the schools.

Dr. Kellis: It's great to have so many people that are of the same mindset. Art has been put to the curb, and we in Dysart are out to change that. We have to fulfill the mission of allowing and providing an opportunity for students to learn. At the same time, there are many students who are not as motivated to come to school with the excitement to learn, but rather for the extra-curricular activities, such as sports or art. We want to be sure that in addition to providing educational opportunities, we give them the chance to enjoy after-school programs.

Recently, there were issues with DUSD and all school districts regarding budget where certain activities were cut; as a result, arts were put on the backburner. As of late, I am trying to re-incorporate sports into the curriculum. Next up is arts, specifically band. We are

bringing back the arts festival. It may become so big that we might have to shut down Parkview. Will be the next biggest event in the district, and it's all about the arts.

Every school will be asked to identify their own signature program. We will also be going out for a bond in November to create support extra-curricular programming for the schools. I hope that we as a district can prove that the arts are not dead in Surprise. We want to be one of the institutions that brings it back to life and lets it flourish. We plan to keep this commission involved since we are working with the same community.

Chair Lieu would definitely like to see how the commission can help in any partnership. For example the art festival: Peoria does this every year, great to see it coming to Surprise. We can be a great resource and help you out. We have two major art organizations in Surprise – WHAM run by Connie Whitlock, and West Valley Arts Council which is very active in the community.

Dr. Kellis agreed and added that he would like to initiate “Art Masterpiece” in the district, where volunteer art docents come into all 4<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms once a month and teach kids about all the elements of particular artists and art pieces for half an hour. He would also like to get kids out to art museums and give them art experiences.

Ms. Meitt expressed her appreciation for Dr. Kellis’ energy and shared her excitement to hear of these opportunities.

Dr. Kellis added that the district will be hiring a Theater Manager who will take a personal responsibility for all school auditoriums and their equipment. He wants all kids to have a great art experience throughout the district.

Ms. deJong added that this Commission is paying for buses to transport students to museums to view art pieces as part of Black History Month.

Dr. Kellis stated that if the Commission ever needs buses for events, we will make them available.

Chair Lieu inquired about the use of facilities, to which Dr. Kellis replied that the auditoriums were initially designed as community gathering spaces, and he wants to repurpose them as professional performance venues; the community will have access to them as well.

Ms. deJong inquired about utilizing the smaller theater, to which Dr. Kellis replied that whatever facilities the district has, he is happy to share amongst the community.

**Item 3 – Presentation to the Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission by the City Attorney’s Office.**

City Attorney Robert Wingo introduced himself. Historically, the City Attorney’s Office has given one large presentation to all Boards and Commissions, but this has proven to be difficult logistically.

Thomas Allen presented the PowerPoint, which served as a brief refresher course for some, and new for others. Topics covered included Open Meeting Law, Conflict of Interest, Acceptance of gifts, and Robert’s Rules of Order.

**Item 4 – Consideration and possible action pertaining to maintenance of public art pieces**

**pursuant to the public art maintenance plan.**

Chair Lieu opened the item, but wanted specifically to discuss the “Give Your Community a Hand” mural.

Connie Whitlock of WHAM was present to address any questions. She started by reviewing “Life in AZ” at Benevilla, which is missing 3-4 pieces of glass, and quoted \$281 for the repair.

“Reflections of Surprise” – Ms. Whitlock noted that she was involved in the original mural, but was not the main artist. Ms. Osborne replied that we have a quote by the principle artist for the restoration of the mural, but will need help cleaning and re-grouting prior to restoration. Ms. Whitlock said that she will look into cleaning and re-grouting the mural.

Give Your Community a Hand – Ms. Whitlock noted that it is very damaged. The backer board is badly damaged – the screws put into backerboard are rusting due to the water damage. Her recommendation is to take it down and remove it. Currently, she is seeking a quote to take it down completely – removal of the tile won’t be as difficult, but the border surrounding the mural is placed directly on the wall and may cause significant damage.

Ms. deJong asked how much of the mural will remain intact once it comes down, to which Ms. Whitlock replied that maybe half should be re-useable.

Chair Lieu inquired as to whose responsibility it would be to fix the wall it is sitting on currently. Ms. Osborne replied that since the Commission is choosing to remove and re-locate the piece, the cost of fixing the wall should be inclusive. Chair Lieu felt that since the piece was installed by CRS knowing the potential damage it could incur, the costs should come out of the CRS budget. Ms. Meitt felt that this would not be possible due to how tight the budget is in any recreation department. Mr. Hastings asked deliberated the best way to approach CRS about the cost. Ms. Osborne asked whether the Commission would be willing to split the cost of the wall repair with another department, if it came to that. Chair Lieu felt that this was not a desirable outcome, but it could be an option. Ms. Meitt asked if there was a way to determine the responsibility of pieces prior to installation. Ms. Whitlock suggested adding a clause in any contract that notes the timeframe for which an artist or the city is responsible for new art pieces.

Chair Lieu asked staff whether they could re-visit the conversation about responsibility for the piece. Mr. Bernardo said that having an estimate for the repair would be a helpful point to start off with. Ms. Whitlock concluded by adding that she will seek a detailed quote from her vendor about the full scope of removal, rehab, and re-installation of the piece.

**Item 5 – Discussion and action regarding a booth at the Surprise Fine Art & Wine Festival at the Surprise Recreation Campus from January 11-13, 2019**

Ms. Osborne passed around a sign-up sheet for the Commissioners so that they could volunteer for specific time slots. She added that for this item, the Commission will need to take action. WHAM no longer loans out their tents because they were getting them back with pieces missing or broken. If the Commission would like to rent the tent, it would be \$50 for the weekend.

Ms. deJong replied that as long as the tent was zippered, it was well worth the cost. Ms. Osborne asked whether the Commission needed any additional materials for their booth

other than their existing chalkboard tablecloth. Ms. deJong asked that staff print event flyers and place it in the art commission bin.

Ms. deJong moved to rent a tent at a cost not-to-exceed \$50. Mr. Hastings 2<sup>nd</sup>. 7 Yes votes. Motion carries.

**Item 6 – Discussion and possible action pertaining to art projects within the City Hall display plan.**

Mr. Bernardo opened the item by saying that it is primarily a discussion as to a preference for the bench “water feature” and whether any of the examples provided at the last meeting were desirable or worth pursuing.

Chair Lieu would like to seek an estimate for blue lights with a heavy duty acrylic piece over the top, potentially with contact paper underneath to mimic water or stone, similar to what can be seen in the hallway on the TV show Shark Tank. The Commission agreed. Staff replied that they will look into it.

Mr. Bernardo brought up the table and chairs project in the Mayor’s Atrium – the foldable tables have since been replaced with nicer tables. He also spoke with City Clerk Sherry Aguilar, and given the priority projects she has for her department, and the fact that the Council saw the replacement tables and chairs and signed off on them, she does not have the budget to support a change in furniture.

Chair Lieu agreed, saying that given what the Commission has planned and given that Council seems to approve of it, she didn’t feel that this is a project to take on right now.

**Item 7 – Update and discussion pertaining to the requested Surprise Arts and Cultural Advisory Commission budget for Fiscal Year 2020.**

Ms. Osborne noted that the figures listed within the agenda are what have been requested, as well as the two packages for staffing and grant funds to administer to outside agencies. Ms. Meitt asked when the Commission would know if their requests had been approved. Mr. Bernardo replied that the budget goes through a vetting process over the course of a few months with department heads, staff, and the Council. Ms. Osborne added that she can continue to update the Commission as to whether their requests have continued to the next step or have been denied.

**Item 8 – Discussion and possible action pertaining to the Friends of the Library Bookmark Contest.**

Ms. Osborne reviewed the requests of the Friends of the Library (FOTL), specifically the timeline and schedule for the contest:

FOTL would like to use one of the display cases in the atrium for the month of March. They would set up the bookmarks in the display case on March 4<sup>th</sup>, and would love the help of the Commission in curating the display. This will take place beginning at 5:00 p.m. On March 5<sup>th</sup>, Aly Cline will present the winners of the contest at the City Council meeting. At the end of March (date TBD), FOTL will have a closing reception for the participants and winners, possibly with light drinks and refreshments, and give the winners the opportunity to speak about their pieces. This would take place from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

At this time, Ms. Osborne would like the blessing of the Commission for FOTL to use the display case for the month of March, and will send off a full timeline of the contest in the event

that the Commission can volunteer their time. Ms. deJong noted that there will be a new exhibition in place in the gallery in March, and that includes the display cases. Ms. Osborne asked whether both cases will be used, to which Ms. deJong replied that only one would. Ms. Wilson-Johnson would like the full Commission to have a copy of the schedule of the exhibitions/gallery so as not to double-book in the future. Ms. deJong will send to Ms. Osborne

to distribute to the full Commission. The Commission agreed that FOTL could utilize a display

case, and looked forward to a full timeline of dates.

**Other Business and Future Agenda Items:**

- Master Plan
- Possible art purchase for this year
- Maintenance Plan
- Bookmarks
- Thunderbird debrief
- Budget update
- Display (bench and wall)
- City Hall gallery

**ADJOURNMENT** – Motion to adjourn 8:09 p.m. – Ms. Wilson-Johnson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Welch. 7 Yes votes. Motion carried.

**ATTEST:**

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Paul Bernardo, Government &  
Community Partnerships Director.

**CERTIFICATION:**

I, Danielle Osborne, Management Analyst for the City of Surprise Government & Community Partnerships Department, Maricopa County, Arizona, do hereby verify that these are the true and correct minutes of the Arts and Cultural Advisory Board meeting held on January 7, 2019.

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Danielle Osborne, Management Analyst