

CITY OF SURPRISE
ARTS AND CULTURAL ADVISORY COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes – Approved

January 11, 2021 / 6:00 PM

COUNCIL CHAMBERS
16000 NORTH CIVIC CENTER PLAZA
SURPRISE, ARIZONA 85374

CALL TO ORDER:

A. Roll Call

Chair Margaret Lieu, Vice-Chair Deborah Welch, Commission members, Susan deJong, Kathie Morgan, Jay Lickus, Jo Grant, Rhiannon Miett.

Staff: Danielle Osborne, HSCV Administrator, Karina Caraveo, Administrative Specialist – HSCV, Seth Dyson, Human Service & Community Vitality Director, Robert Wingo, City Attorney, Sherry Aguilar, City Clerk.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Current Events Reports

Chair Lieu shared the Underground Poetry Slam had a smaller group this year but still was still allot of fun. She visited the Public Works facility to see the art work and found that it was very accessible and it's best in full sunlight because it casts the best shadows. Reminded staff that the City of Surprise website will need to be updated with most recent pieces.

Ms. Morgan shared that she met with Jay and Rhiannon to discuss the Mobile Museum project. She also informed the commission that the January 27th Speaker Series has been cancelled.

Mr. Lickus reiterated that he met with Ms. Morgan, and that he also had the opportunity to visit the Public Works facility, stated that it's a gorgeous piece. He participated on the FS 308 art panel, and had a fun opportunity to be part of the downtown Yarnell Peace Pole Ceremony. Mr. Lickus shared he had done some research on the AZ Humanities Speaker Series and AZ Quester's.

Ms. deJong attended a virtual presentation from AZ Humanities and viewed the live stream of Poetry Slam. She also visited the Public Works facility. Ms. deJong pointed out a picture of an artist in the newspaper who had been part of the Sports Show, and plans to involve the artist on the Art Gallery project in the future. Ms. deJong announced the Martin Luther King event on January 16th.

Chair Lieu introduced new Commissioner Jo Grant.

City Clerk Sherry Aguilar administered the Oath of Office to Commissioner Jo Grant.

D. Staff Reports

Ms. Osborne reported on the following items:

- The HSCV department will not be planning for any in-person events until at least August 2021.
- In this regard, Lunchtime Theater has been cancelled for the season.
- Council has requested a review of the 1.3% for the Arts Ordinance.
 - Meeting has been scheduled with Mayor, Vice Mayor, Chair and Vice Chair to review their request.
- Meeting with BacPac has been scheduled to discuss changes with the working group.
- Staff at Public Works have given very positive feedback on the new piece at the SPA-1 campus.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

None.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS – NON PUBLIC HEARING

Item 1 – Consideration and action approving the December 7, 2020 Arts and Cultural Advisory Commission meeting minutes.

Ms. deJong moved to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2020 Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission meeting. Mr. Lickus 2nd. 4 Yes votes. 3 Abstained (Welch, Miatt & Grant). Motion carried.

Item 2 – Presentation and possible action pertaining to participation in the annual Vision & Sound-Black History Month project.

Ms. Osborne announced Norma Cunningham will be presenting Vision & Sound's draft schedule of events and letter of support virtually.

Ms. Cunningham explained she and the Dysart Unified School District have been planning their virtual events, advised Dr. Michael Borum would be presenting a program about resilience through the arts.

Ms. Morgan questioned if the Dysart School District had been approached for a stipend, to which Ms. Cunningham responded that it had not.

Ms. Miatt asked if the grant program discussed previously meeting would conflict with this request Ms. Osborne advised there is no grant program in effect for this current fiscal year. She recommended to continue operating under previous practices, to enter into sponsorship for this event. Stated she is currently working on building the grant program.

Ms. Morgan expressed concerns about setting precedent. Chair Lieu shared those concerns because the request is different than what had been done in the past, in that the stipend would go toward a speaker whose material they are not familiar with.

Ms. Mielt asked whether the program was restricted to Dysart students only, and asked whether students from outside districts had utilized the transportation sponsored by the commission. Chair Lieu said that only the Dysart School District can utilize the bus program.

Ms. Morgan inquired as to whether the artist had been asked to donate his work, to which Ms. Cunningham responded that he was already donating his time.

Ms. deJong suggested viewing this as a continuation of support.

Ms. Mielt asked about supporting Vision & Sound, rather than one specific artist. Ms. Cunningham offered to make the presentation recording available for other schools. Chair Lieu mentioned this would still be just like endorsing an artist and would prefer to go through the presentations.

Ms. Morgan shared her concern with offering a stipend to one out of four artists participating in this program. Ms. Mielt asked if the exhibit will be available at Arts HQ. Ms. Cunningham advised the virtual exhibit will be put together by the City of Goodyear. Ms. Mielt asked if any of the artist live in Arizona, particularly in Surprise. Ms. Cunningham advised the artist are all located outside of Surprise. She pointed out that this presentation is for students to learn more about resilience and use of art.

Vice-Chair Welch pointed out work presented by one of the artists, and asked whether there would be issues behind the commission putting support behind any potentially controversial content. City Attorney Wingo advised that it would be prudent for the commission to understand the product before taking action. Ms. deJong asked if the recording could be shown prior to making a decision.

Ms. Morgan emphasized the importance of additional discussion for this request.

Chair Lieu felt that Vision & Sound is a wonderful program, but that she is not comfortable with this request. Mr. Lickus asked how the funds were administered in the past, to which Ms. Osborne said that they were directly paid towards the DUSD Transportation Department for the buses.

After additional discussion, it was determined by the commission that further discussion would need to take place prior to any sponsorship. Overall, no one was in favor of this request. No consensus.

Item 3 – Discussion and action pertaining to the “Poetry Slam at WHAM” funding proposal.

Due to her membership at WHAM, Chair Lieu recused herself and asked Vice-Chair Welch to preside over the item. Connie Whitlock of WHAM was in attendance to discuss this item.

Vice-Chair Welch shared that the Commission has discussed this item in prior meetings. She asked Ms. Whitlock how many of these meetings are currently done a year. Ms. Whitlock advised there are six events a year, every other month.

Ms. Mielt added she supports the “Poetry Slam” but is concerned about the food line on proposal. Ms. Whitlock responded the funds requested is not only towards food expenses, but to cover expenses for the program participants and the usage of the WHAM building and equipment.

Ms. Morgan moved to approve the “Poetry Slam at WHAM” funding proposal at a cost to not exceed \$1,200.00. Ms. Miett 2nd. 6 Yes votes. 1 Abstain (Lieu). Motion carried.

Item 4 – Discussion and action pertaining to the repair and installation of the “Give Your Community a Hand” mural.

Due to her membership at WHAM, Chair Lieu recused herself and asked Vice-Chair Welch to preside over the item. Connie Whitlock and Marty Wolfe of WHAM were in attendance to discuss this item.

Ms. Osborne advised that since the adoption of the policies and procedures, maintenance assessments had been performed for existing pieces and it was agreed that the “Give Your Community a Hand” mural needed immediate repair. Ms. Osborne shared that this was formerly housed at a structure adjacent to the Parks & Rec office, and because it was getting hit by sprinklers it caused the screws to rust and tiles to fall off. Stated this is now stored at City Hall. Ms. Osborne worked with WHAM to remove this piece and shared the possibility of reinstalling at the Dreamcatcher Park building, provided the Commission with a photo of proposed location. Ms. Whitlock provided a quote to the Commission, explained they have examined a few tiles and the effort that was done to clean them to place back into usage. Ms. Wolfe overviewed the process that she had undertaken in an attempt to restore the tiles.

Ms. deJong showed concerned that many of these tiles would not be saved. Ms. Whitlock agreed there are some tiles that may not be useable. Understands some of these tiles were done by past City of Surprise Staff and will try to save as many tiles as possible. Ms. Whitlock explained installation details, process and cost if it was decided to restore the tiles. She added that a third party would have to be hired for the reinstallation. Offered different possibilities to have this project restored, including making all new tiles.

Mr. Lickus asked if any outside contractors have been contacted for proposals on cleaning these tiles. Ms. Whitlock advised they have not reached out to any outside contractors. Ms. deJong offered the possibility of inspecting all the tiles to determine which can be saved. Ms. Whitlock shared that could be considered. Ms. Morgan pointed out that there had not been a discussion on the cost and whether this is something that should be considered.

Ms. Miett asked for the cost when this was originally installed. Ms. Whitlock mentioned this was not a project through the commission. Ms. Miett asked if there has been any reaction from the public since this was removed. Ms. Osborne advised there has not been anything communicated to her. Ms. Miett offered the possibility of giving them away or repurposing them for an event or project. Ms. deJong was concerned of the public getting hurt with them by this possibility.

Ms. Whitlock expressed this is a very labor intensive project. Ms. Morgan asked would a school be able to assist with the cleaning of the tiles. Chair Lieu advised the schools would not have the time to clean them. Ms. deJong pointed out some of these tiles have a meaning. Ms. Morgan asked if the tile creator would know if theirs was missing. Ms. Whitlock advised they would not because of how long ago this was done and they may have been residents outside of City of Surprise.

Vice-Chair Welch pointed out a discussion would be done to decide if the expense should be done. Offered to perhaps reconsider the size of the wall project. Ms. deJong suggested again to inspect these tiles. Ms. Whitlock continued to express how the tiles will require allot of work.

Ms. Morgan added if the number of tiles were reduced based on the number of tiles that can be salvaged, this would reduce the cost as well. Ms. Whitlock advised about how a mural will last longer than any wall paint, cost may be no different but the tiles do last longer. Ms. deJong asked the possibility of mounting these tiles on a board then mounted on the wall. Ms. Whitlock advised that may be an option.

Vice-Chair Welch concluded that there was no consensus to move forward. Suggested forming a work group on this project. Ms. deJong offered to help with the tile inspection. Ms. Osborne advised she can assist on accessing these tiles. Ms. Miett added this working group can also see the possibility on a different mural.

Mr. Lickus asked what is the legacy value of this mural. Ms. Whitlock advised there are past Mayor's names, local business names and residents that are worth saving. Ms. deJong continued to express the importance of the tile inspection.

Ms. Whitlock clarified that the reconstruction of this can be done and continue to hold the legacy value. Ms. Osborne clarified what would need to be done in order to inspect these tiles, asked to allow her to explore some ideas and asked for volunteers for this project.

Ms. deJong, Ms. Grant, and Mr. Lickus offered to be part of the working group. Ms. Whitlock offered to be part of the process on inspecting the tiles. The commission agreed that this was the best first step in moving forward with this project.

Item 5 – Discussion pertaining to the maintenance of the “We are the Past, and Future of Surprise” mural.

Due to her membership at WHAM, Chair Lieu recused herself and asked Vice-Chair Welch to preside over the item. Connie Whitlock and Marty Wolfe of WHAM were in attendance to discuss this item.

Ms. Osborne said that this was also part of the maintenance assessment, which WHAM was involved in. Ms. Whitlock advised this mural was a teen project, funds were received from the Police Department. Since then this has been vandalized once, it has been repainted now. Ms. Osborne added this was added to the agenda to discuss if a restoration is needed. Ms. Miett reviewed the items that will have to be reconstructed. Ms. Whitlock pointed out this is about a 13 year old mural. Ms. deJong suggested to have this re-inspected prior to a decision.

Ms. Whitlock shared their new partner, Young Life, a youth organization. She shared that the initial work was done by teens, therefore having this new partner participate could continue the spirit of the project. Vice-Chair Welch expressed the importance of having the teens involved and felt it was a great idea. Ms. deJong agreed, on having the teens involved.

Ms. Miett asked to retain this type of information on projects, stated it is important to know this was created by teens.

Vice-Chair clarified the process will be to have Ms. Whitlock look at this project and offer the Commission a quote to restore involving the teens with this process.

Ms. Osborne advised this will depend on Ms. Whitlock's and WHAM's availability, suggested this can be an item that can be addressed on the next fiscal year if necessary.

Item 6 – Discussion and action pertaining to the recommended 1.3% for the Arts-funded project, to be installed at the site of the new Fire Station 308 facility.

Chair Lieu asked for the working group to provide feedback on this project.

Ms. Miett shared that this project was very interesting, since the working group met virtually and visited the site individually. Vice-Chair Welch shared she was impressed there was a high interest from artists; they received 5 different artist proposals. Ms. Miett added the proposed project fits in with the existing rustic theme and shared other projects the artist has been part of.

Chair Lieu expressed she is not capturing the artistry in this project, cannot see how the shadows would be or the meaning of this concept. Ms. Miett said the working group reviewed all different proposals, and at the end this was decided as the most agreeable option. Ms. Osborne advised the option of adding lighting to the project was discussed, it would be funded with a separate award but it could add color to it and give it a different feel. Ms. Miett pointed out the quote added by the artist. Ms. Morgan shared she does not believe this quote applies to the courage concept. Ms. deJong asked if all four panels were different textures, added that they looked flat. Chair Lieu advised she loves the concept but cannot visualize the proposed project, added for this cost she would like to see something different.

Ms. Morgan asked when was it decided all first responders would be included in the theme of this project. Ms. Osborne responded that this was a discussion in the initial meeting, and it was decided to honor all public safety.

Ms. Miett pointed out one of the items the working group considered was that this project would fit best than others based on the large area it's going in. Mr. Lickus agreed that the cost of this project is not suitable but after looking at the other proposed projects this would be the best choice.

Chair Lieu believes the working group has done a great job with this project, advised considering to work with the artist and to make changes. Suggested to put all the ideas together to bring back to the artist. Ms. Miett asked whether this should be ideas gathered by the working group, or if the entire commission needed to be brought in for feedback before asking the artist for any changes. Ms. Miett showed concerned about having this piece installed after the construction of the fire station is complete.

Ms. Osborne advised that finalizing this project at the same time as the fire station would be ideal, but it can be placed after the facility's completion. She shared that the process for permitting construction of the art is much when done in parallel with the construction of the building. Ms. Osborne pointed out the surrounding areas where the proposed project would be going, and emphasized the need to take the entire project site into consideration.

Ms. Morgan added the importance of creating a process prior to requesting proposals.

Ms. deJong suggested requesting for qualifications from an artist would help choose the artist to collaborate with on a design. Chair Lieu pointed out because this is part of a bond, the project cannot be extended. She shared that she believes this looks more like a sign than an art piece. Ms. Morgan believed that the artist is trying to send a message, and stated that sometimes things say a lot by being understated.

Ms. deJong added that the texture could be more pronounced than depicted in the proposal. Chair Lieu added that the font seems collegiate. Suggested the lighting should be requested on a revised proposal.

Ms. Osborne reminded the commissioners of the project scope and the surrounding area. She clarified that the commission was not ready to bring this item to Council, and suggested that the panel reconvene to work with the artist to modify the proposal and to offer recommendations on the surrounding area.

Chair Lieu agreed that this was the best option moving forward.

Item 7 – Update and discussion pertaining to the procurement of an art piece for the city's permanent collection.

Chair Lieu pointed out the 5 C's photos by Joe Tyler and the possibility of purchasing this piece.

Ms. Osborne announced that the pieces can be purchased, however Mr. Tyler does not want to sell unless he can enhance the pieces prior to purchase. Ms. deJong added that Mr. Tyler has interest in knowing where these pieces will be permanently placed, so that he can design the enhancements accordingly.

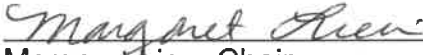
Ms. Osborne reminded the commission that it was discussed prior this would be a piece to procure for the city's permanent art collection, with a plan to decide at a later time a permanent location.

Chair Lieu advised this item should be tabled for discussion at a later meeting.

Other Business and Future Agenda Items:

- Commission retreat/training
- Joe Tyler 5 C's
- Poetry Slam at WHAM
- Give Your Community a Hand mural
- Bicentennial restroom mural
- BacPac Mural

ADJOURNMENT – Motion to adjourn 8:28 p.m. – Ms. deJong, 2nd by Ms. Welch. 7 Yes votes.
Motion carried.

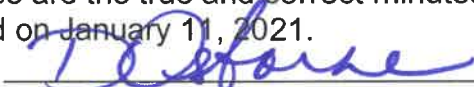

Margaret Lieu, Chair

ATTEST:


Karina Caraveo, Administrative Specialist

CERTIFICATION:

I, Danielle Osborne, HSCV Administrator for the City of Surprise City Manager's Office, Maricopa County, Arizona, do hereby verify that these are the true and correct minutes of the Arts and Cultural Advisory Commission meeting held on January 11, 2021.


Danielle Osborne, HSCV Administrator