

CITY OF SURPRISE
ARTS AND CULTURAL ADVISORY COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes – Approved

February 3, 2020 / 6:00 PM

COMMUNITY ROOM
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.

Absent: Commission members, Jack Hastings, Rhiannon Miett, Crystal Miller (excused).

Staff: Paul Bernardo, Community Partnerships Manager, Danielle Osborne, Management Analyst.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Current Events Reports

Chair Lieu shared that Mark Brown, parks & recreation Commissioner, has been hosting a civil rights lecture, and would like to know if the arts commission was interested in hosting it as an event. Chair Lieu shared that she attended the Vision & Sound opening and met the artist, who provided fabulous photo-realistic portraits of young boys and girls who are portrayed as adults. For example, there was a child in a work suit who was holding a teddy bear. It was meant to make a statement about how kids are pushed to grow very quickly. She also attended meetings regarding art at Fire Station 304.

Ms. Morgan attended the January AZ Humanities Speaker series. It was filled to capacity, nearly 100 people, which she felt may have been due to the topic or the publicity. Ms. Morgan said that if it happens again next time, the commission may need to think about how to accommodate the growing capacity. Ms. Morgan attended the lectures on the Underground Railroad. Additionally, she visited the Basha Museum of Southwestern Art which contained much artwork and is located in Chandler, free in admission, and is open during weekdays. Many groups, cities, and organizations hold special events there, but it is open to the public. She thought it might be an interesting bus tour destination.

Ms. deJong attended the Women's Air Force Pilots presentation, the Underground Railroad lecture, a performance by the West Valley Symphony, Fire Station 304 meeting, the jazz concert for Vision & Sound, and she recently hung the sports show. She shared that she has some updates pertaining to the gallery which she would report on during the meeting. She added that currently, artwork by One Step Beyond is on display in the cases, and art by Patricia Bohanan will be on display in the cases next month. Joseph Beckles' artwork will be displayed in a couple of months, the Women's Suffrage history display will be shown in the

reception area, a western show has been booked, as well as the art of Barbara Balstead and the Colored Pencil Society. The Joe Tyler bus tour took place and had 60 attendees. Mr. Tyler would like to do it again next year, but twice. Ms. deJong shared that the Benevilla bus tour is full and has a waiting list, and that the “Cowgirl Up!” bus tour is half full.

Chair Lieu said that West Valley Arts Council (WVAC) has been advertising Lunchtime Theater, but she recently noticed that it hasn’t been including the City of Surprise as a partner, and that she would like for staff to look into that.

Vice-Chair Welch attended the Fire Station 304 meeting.

D. **Staff Reports**

Ms. Osborne reported on the following items:

- Modifications to landscaping at “The Learning Tree” is underway. As of this morning, the grass surrounding the concrete has been scalped.
- Received mural proposals for the Aquatic Center from BacPac, however it was too late to add it to this agenda. A special meeting will likely be called to review the submissions.
- History Wall draft will be presented to Council at tomorrow night’s meeting. Meeting begins at 6pm, however the Consent Agenda and one item are ahead of our presentation.
- Bookmark contest judging is taking place this Wednesday, February 5th at the NW Regional Library from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

None.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS – NON PUBLIC HEARING

Item 1 – Consideration and action approving the January 6, 2020 Arts and Cultural Advisory Commission regular meeting minutes.

Ms. deJong moved to approve the minutes of the January 6, 2020 Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission meeting. Ms. Morgan 2nd. 4 Yes votes. 3 Absent (Hastings, Miatt & Miller). Motion carried.

Item 2 – Discussion pertaining to a facility use agreement with the West Valley Arts Council.

Chair Lieu introduced the item, stating that it is pertaining to the exhibition hanging in the galleries. There were previous concerns about liability with regards to the hanging of artwork. She asked Ms. Morgan and Mr. Bernardo for clarification, to which he responded that WVAC would assume liability. Mr. Bernardo stated that ultimately, WVAC is taking on the liability, regardless of whether their staff hangs art or if they allow an artist to hang the work themselves.

Ms. deJong said that at the last hanging, the artist designed the show, but WVAC staff hung anything that required a ladder. With regards to the shelves in the display cases, WVAC staff is now moving the shelves.

Ms. deJong stated that the agreement attached to the agenda was incorrect and expired in 2018; Ms. Osborne responded that the attached agreement language is current, and that an amendment granting an extension until 2020 to the agreement was signed by both parties in 2018. Therefore, the attached agreement was up for expiration this year, hence discussion surrounding its revision.

Ms. deJong asked that a sentence regarding the display cases be added to the agreement. Ms. Morgan asked that rather than using Bernadette Carroll's name, she would like to see it changed to the title of WVAC Executive Director. She also asked whether the City right of refusal should be reviewed by the current City Attorney, since the previous practice was established by a former attorney no longer with the city. Chair Lieu felt that it should be left as "City" so that it is broad as to who conducts the review.

Ms. Osborne said that regardless of the discussion taking place at the meeting, the agreement would be reviewed by the City Attorney.

Mayor Hall, through the Chair, asked about section 6.5 and the sale of art at the recent gallery opening, and where the permission is sought. He stated that art was sold in the parking lot, which is on the exterior of the walls of the premises. Chair Lieu raised the point that the commission had never previously reviewed the entire agreement, and that perhaps they should. Ms. Osborne said that the entire agreement is a facility use agreement, and that the commission's input was sought specifically for the art gallery process. She further stated that anything regarding policing the use of the facility exceeds the commission's purview, and that she would look into WVAC's use of the parking lot for the sale of artwork.

Item 3 – Discussion pertaining to a centerpiece for the Development Center Bench.

Ms. Osborne reported that Logan Simpson – the same design firm that the commission selected for work on art at the Public Works Operations Facility – has expressed interest in submitting a proposal for the centerpiece of the Development Center Bench. Ms. Osborne and Mr. Bernardo met with the lead designer and provided some background and context as to what the commission was seeking, as well as the previous RFP solicitation. She added that she did not provide a deadline since the funding for the project would have to come from the Fiscal Year 2021 budget. She anticipated that a proposal would arrive sometime in April, although she could not make any guarantees.

Ms. deJong asked whether there would only be one proposal from the firm. Ms. Osborne said that when meeting with the designer, she shared that the commission was open to multiple ideas, and did not want to limit them to one theme. She added that the designer asked about color limitations, to which she responded that they were not necessarily. Mr. Bernardo said that the designer was even shown the mural in the City Cashier office for comparison and context as to how broad of a theme the commission has achieved. Chair Lieu said that it would be great to get a piece that compliments the mural in the cashier office. Seeing no further need for discussion, Chair Lieu moved on to the next item.

Item 4 – Discussion pertaining to a sports-themed exhibition.

Chair Lieu introduced the item and asked Ms. deJong for an update.

Ms. deJong reported that the reception is on March 12th, 5 – 7 p.m., and that food options needed to be discussed.

Chair Lieu said that there is \$1,100.00 remaining in the budget for catering snacks and refreshments for the remainder of the year's receptions. She reminded the commission that no other receptions were planned for the year.

Mr. Bernardo suggested Ottawa University. Chair Lieu suggested One Step Beyond, Inc. Ms. Osborne said that she would research both options. Ideas surrounding what type of food should be served were discussed.

Ms. deJong asked that Mr. Bernardo coordinate promotion of the reception with Sports & Tourism director Kendra Pettis.

Ms. Morgan wanted to revisit having an appearance from a Texas Rangers or Kansas City Royals player at the reception. Ms. deJong said that we could have a player present, but it would cost \$500. Chair Lieu said that there was even a Texas Rangers player reading to the kids at the Asante Library grand opening. She suggested a retired baseball player. Mr. Bernardo said that he would explore it once again.

Item 5 – Discussion pertaining to ongoing safety and maintenance issues for the “Top Knot” sculpture.

Ms. Osborne reported that the base of the piece has been scuffed again, and that she reached out to the city's new risk manager to get some feedback. Unfortunately, he advised some of the same options as what was previously explored, and shared some of the issues with each solution. His ultimate suggestion was to construct a pedestal for the piece, so that it would be elevated and hopefully deter climbers.

Chair Lieu asked whether we have reached out to other communities to gather feedback. Mr. Bernardo said that he would look back, but he did recall speaking with Scottsdale and Phoenix. Ms. Morgan suggested that a hedge be dug out, but Chair Lieu said that it would be expensive to dig out the cement around the piece.

Ms. deJong felt that a pedestal was a good solution. Ms. Osborne said that while a pedestal could deter skateboarders, the issue of climbers would still be present. The commission felt that skateboarding was the immediate issue at hand, and asked staff to look into the cost of a pedestal. Ms. Osborne asked whether to consider up lighting, to which the commission asked that she do.

Chair Lieu asked that staff also talk with powder coaters to see if they can fix the imperfection on the paint.

Item 6 – Discussion and action pertaining to the procurement and changes to Public Art Maps.

Chair Lieu introduced the item and said that in the past, there have been yellow, pink and blue covers. She asked the commission what color they wanted this year.

Ms. Morgan asked about the changes on the inside before considering a cover color. Ms. Osborne said that she had the “Surprise!” mural, Peace Pole, and Public Works art listed as changes. Ms. deJong asked about adding the Aquatic Center mural. Ms. Morgan suggested listing the location as “coming soon.” Ms. deJong inquired about adding the Fire Station art, to which Ms. Osborne felt that it would not be far enough along to add to the map.

Chair Lieu suggested Surprise purple for the cover. The commission agreed. Some discussion ensued regarding placement of “Give Your Community a Hand,” but Ms. Osborne said that the location had not been approved yet.

Ms. Morgan suggested adding a mural to the interior walls of the Veterans Bridge on Bell Road, but Ms. Osborne said that it is ADOT property and that previous attempts did not result in anything.

Ms. Morgan moved to approve the procurement of additional public art maps with the recommended changes at a cost not-to-exceed \$1,400.00. Vice-Chair Welch 2nd. 4 Yes votes. 3 Absent (Hastings, Mielt & Miller). Motion carried.

Item 7 – Discussion and action pertaining to the printing and purchase of flyers for the AZ Humanities Speaker Series.

Ms. Morgan said that many attendees already have a flyer for the remainder of the series. The commission reviewed the upcoming events for which they would distribute the flyers. All agreed that 250 would be enough flyers.

Vice-Chair Welch moved to approve the printing of additional AZ Humanities Speaker flyers at a cost not to exceed \$60.00. Ms. deJong 2nd. 4 Yes votes. 3 Absent (Hastings, Mielt & Miller). Motion carried.

Item 8 – Presentation and discussion pertaining to an update on the Women’s Heritage Trail event.

Chair Lieu said that the flyer was gorgeous. Vice-Chair Welch said that the only change she saw was that there needed to be some text about the commission hosting the event. She overviewed the event, saying that the First Baptist Church was happy to host the tour, followed by the Fulcher family who would be at the second stop of the tour, and that the last stop would include a PowerPoint presentation by City Clerk Sherry Aguilar.

Ms. Morgan asked for additional details so that she could help promote it with local women’s groups. She suggested that some verbiage be added that clarifies participants needing their own transportation to each stop along the roaming tour. Vice-Chair asked that it be clarified on the flyer that light refreshments would be provided at the community center only, as opposed to each stop.

Various commissioners asked for copies of the flyers so that they could promote at upcoming events, and various locations.

Ms. Osborne overviewed newspaper ad pricing for the commission. Ms. deJong said that many of the previous events have been advertised in the paper without the commission paying for an ad. Ms. Osborne said that the city always issues press releases and shares directly with the media, and that it is then up to the newspaper’s discretion to promote the events themselves, but that they have done so consistently over the last few weeks.

Ms. Osborne asked for information on what types of refreshments they would like. Vice-Chair Welch said that cookies and juice would suffice.

Item 9 – Discussion pertaining to the use of the Mobile Museum at special events.

Chair Lieu asked whether Ms. Osborne has heard from Dysart regarding the Art Festival. Ms. Osborne responded that she had not, but that she would reach out to them. Chair Lieu said that the commission should really think about how they are staging the tents to better lure people in. She said that she was able to draw people in by asking them about their interest in the arts, and that once they were in, they did read the material.

Ms. Morgan felt that the Mobile Museum was out of place at the Thunderbird Festival, where people are more likely to be shopping for art rather than reading about it. Ms. deJong felt that if the full display was up, it would have drawn more people in. Chair Lieu liked that the table was outside of the tent, and that the inside was purely for reading. She mentioned that the city has pieces that it owns outright, and that those could be displayed.

Ms. Morgan said that this might take away from the goal of the tent. She suggested possibly setting a bench up directly in the middle of the tent to make people feel like they are welcomed to sit inside. Chair Lieu suggested having a speaker with music at the events. She also suggested a video on a loop which would tie into the theme of the tent. She felt that more interactive elements would help attract people inside.

Ms. Morgan said that this idea is reminiscent of the Basha Museum, and that no video was more than two minutes long. Chair Lieu said that she would really like to have a speaker with music at the event.

Vice-Chair Welch said that it would be good to host the tent at the Women’s Suffrage event. Ms. deJong said that it would make sense if the full display was up, but not if it only contained literature.

Ms. Morgan suggested hanging the art boards in the hallway when they are not in use. Chair Lieu felt that the hallway gallery was not an appropriate location. Ms. deJong suggested placing them on top of the display cases.

Chair Lieu said that she felt that the group should talk to someone more familiar with staging a tent. Ms. Morgan said that music would be a good first step in the right direction and asked that staff explore those costs or whether there was a speaker available for use.

Other Business and Future Agenda Items:

- Gallery 37
- Dysart Art Show
- Aquatic Center mural
- Library mural (update)
- Sports Gallery Reception (update)
- FY2021 Budget
- “Give Your Community a Hand” mural
- Events & Responsibilities list

ADJOURNMENT – Motion to adjourn 7:30 p.m. –Vice-Chair Welch, 2nd by Ms. deJong. 4 Yes votes. 3 Absent (Hastings, Mielt & Miller). Motion carried.

Margaret Lieu, Chair

ATTEST:

Danielle Osborne, Management Analyst

CERTIFICATION:

I, Danielle Osborne, Management Analyst 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 February 3, 2020.

Danielle Osborne, Management Analyst