

CITY OF SURPRISE
ARTS AND CULTURAL ADVISORY COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes – Approved

February 4, 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: Danielle Osborne, Management Analyst

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Current Events Reports

Chair Lieu has been working on a collaborative project at her school since August that involves about 300 students, staff, parents and community members. It's a long process but lots of fun, and involves a grant from AZ Commission on the Arts. An unveiling will take place in May in Peoria. Part of that program will involve meeting with the AZ Commission on the Arts and during that discussion, Chair Lieu will inquire about assistance with putting together Call to Artists for the larger bond projects. Chair Lieu also went to the council meeting where Mayor & Council approved construction of the Brian Mancini memorial, which is going to be in many ways a piece of public art. A rendering of the memorial was included in the AZ Republic, and will include a reflection circle, a plaque with one of his poems, a garden and a bench where people can sit and reflect. This will allow the general public and veterans to enjoy the space and do Brian Mancini justice.

Ms. Morgan hosted the January 9th AZ Humanities speaker series – we hosted another great speaker and great topic. She also helped both Friday and Saturday at the Thunderbird Artist festival, and helped on the January 26th tour at Joe Tyler's house. She also attended a Gammage Theater production of "Hello Dolly" and an Orpheum Theater production of "Legally Blonde."

Ms. Miett attended a performance put on by Theater Works.

Ms. deJong attended the AZ Humanities event and noted that there were about 80 people in attendance. She also assisted at the Thunderbird Festival for 2 days. Additionally, she attended Martin Luther King Day planning meetings and participated the day of the event. She also worked with schools to organize and judge the poster contest. She also attended some Rotary meeting regarding the Peace Pole– they are getting closer to submitting an application, and are hoping to have it to us by the Fall. Ms. deJong attended the WHAM opening of Color, Rhythm and Pattern, and attended an Art Leaders meeting, where it was reported that Arizona is ahead of most states as far as arts education goes. She also

participated in the Joe Tyler tour, which had about 35 people. Finally, she attended the opening of the Vision & Sound exhibition, which was extremely successful.

Vice-Chair Hastings assisted at the Thunderbird Art & Wine festival, and noticed lots of participation, and lots of people of different ages. He noted that the fence around Mark Coronado Park has made it a safer, more controlled space.

Ms. Wilson-Johnson assisted at the Thunderbird Festival for two of the days.

Chair Lieu mentioned that in the interest of keeping the meeting organized and flowing well, Mr. Wingo brought up a good point at the last meeting; although we get excited about what we talk about, I don't want us stepping over each other when we comment. If you want to speak, let me know and anyone who wants to speak will get a chance.

D. **Staff Reports**

Ms. Osborne reported on the following items:

- City Hall Open House/10th Anniversary Celebration – March 28th 5:30 – 8:00 p.m.
 - Commission will be given a table in the gallery hallway
 - Staff will provide flyers, handouts, maps, etc.
 - There will be a lot going on throughout the building – all departments involved

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Mayor Hall – Wanted to elaborate on the Open Hall event. It will be tied into the State of the City address, and will focus on staff and the council's efforts and will give the public a way to plug into the city and learn about what we're doing. This event is not going to be elitist; the goal is to have the seats filled by the public. The State of the City address will be an intro by the Mayor accompanied by a video presentation by the Directors.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS – NON PUBLIC HEARING

Item 1 – Consideration and action approving the January 7, 2019 Arts and Cultural Advisory Commission Meeting minutes.

Vice-Chair Hastings moved to approve the minutes of the January 7, 2019 Arts and Cultural Advisory Commission meeting. Ms. Welch 2nd. 7 Yes votes. Motion carries.

Item 2 – Discussion pertaining to the Arts and Cultural Advisory Commission booth at the Surprise Fine Art & Wine Festival held at the Surprise Recreation Campus last January 11-13, 2019.

Chair Lieu felt that there was a lot of interest while she was working at the booth, but she and Ms. deJong talked about creating a self-guided booth where visitors do not necessarily need a person in attendance to enjoy the display. Ms. deJong shared an example from the City of Goodyear and their "mobile museum" concept. Vice-Chair Hastings liked the idea, and felt that it would be more approachable and fits the scene of the event.

Ms. deJong said that she hopes to talk about it during the art acquisition item later in the agenda. Ms. Welch hoped the intended use would include other city events such as Fiesta Grande, to which Ms. deJong agreed.

Chair Lieu asked the Commission to think about how Thunderbird went and how Thunderbird might look if they had one of these tents. Her only other suggestion was that an interactive element was necessary for these events, and that the Commission should generate ideas for future events. Ms. Morgan suggested capitalizing on the white space on the outside of the tent and having more for visitors to look at to capture their attention. Ms. Meitt suggested putting the table against the wall to have room to walk in, and including a QR code to send visitors to more information online. Vice-Chair Hastings suggested that and traditional flyers since there are mixed demographics in the city.

Chair Lieu would like to organize our flyers a little bit better next time, maybe do one display with WHAM, one with WVAC rather than making people feel overwhelmed. She would also like to see a flyer made for the City Hall gallery schedule.

Call to the Public: Andy Cepon – Mr. Cepon loved the idea of an interactive booth and noted that touch screens and kiosks are the wave of the future. He felt that there should still be a human element there, so that the display appeals generationally. He didn't see any surveys about the arts, and no raffles. He suggested the Commission seek donations and have people sign up for the raffle and emails which notifies them of arts or cultural events, which would generate a big following. This way they could capture contact information to build a mailing list for people in the city.

Item 3 – Discussion pertaining to the Friends of the Library Bookmark Contest.

Chair Lieu reminded everyone that the judging would take place at the main library tomorrow at 5:30 pm, and the Friends would guide the Commission through the process. She also brought up the display of the winners. There is open space in the cabinets, and she had an idea to get stiffer material like foam core to display them at a vertical angle. It has enough height and would look much better than laying the bookmarks flat.

Ms. deJong wondered about adding LED lighting to the cabinets to enhance the display. Ms. Wilson-Johnson inquired about hanging some of the bookmarks on the blue wall in the atrium. Ms. Meitt suggested the movable walls from Arts HQ. Ms. Wilson-Johnson suggested that the Friends rent them since they are \$5 a day, but worried about the available space since the bookmarks were glued to sheets of paper last year. Ms. deJong suggested talking with the Friends at the judging event to see what the plans were.

Item 4 – Discussion pertaining to the Public Art Master Plan.

Chair Lieu wanted to bring this item back to address the trail maps. She noted that a working group would need to get together to work on these. Ms. deJong, Vice-Chair Hastings, and Ms. Welch volunteered to participate.

Chair Lieu asked if there were any other short-term goals that the Commission wanted to look into. She said number three was completed by way of the joint Commission meeting.

Chair Lieu also mentioned that the Commission could work on the list of resources for outside inquiries. She asked for volunteers to work on compiling this list of organizations. Ms. Meitt volunteered to put together a list for all of Surprise and a separate list for all of Maricopa County.

Item 5 – Discussion and action pertaining to the display plan for City Hall.

Ms. Osborne introduced the item, with a sample and quote from ABD Signs & Printing. The quote is for installation and materials. The final price may be altered based on what happens with the Totem. Chair Lieu felt that the rocks in the sample were too defined, but she liked the color. Ms. Meitt preferred a water-only design. Ms. deJong asked what would alter the pricing.

Ms. Osborne explained that she met with Totem artist Laurel Delaney to discuss the move and maintenance of the piece. Although she would be supportive of the Commission's decision, Ms. Delaney was opposed to the move and stated her reasons why. For one thing, she did not design it to be an elevated piece. Should the piece be raised and placed in the center of the bench, a supporting pole within the triangle base would be visible at eye level. Additionally, cleaning and maintenance would be much more difficult if the piece were elevated and acrylic placed around it, however Ms. Osborne stated that if Totem were to be moved to the bench, she and staff would find a way to clean it. Another factor is that the artist was dealing with some personal issues, which may delay the maintenance of the piece. Her final concern was that the Totem design did not fit with the "water" design that the Commission was going for in the bench. Each design does not tie into one another, and would not look cohesive. Ms. Osborne stated once again that the artist would be fully on-board with what the Commission decides tonight, however she felt compelled to share her concerns.

Ms. Morgan asked whether a more "earthy" design would suit the Totem. Ms. Osborne replied that the artist was more comfortable leaving the piece on the ground where it currently sits. Ms. deJong felt that its current location was a bad spot, to which Ms. Osborne responded that the artist disagreed. Ms. deJong also felt that the base was badly damaged, and that people were touching the piece. Vice-Chair Hastings wanted to confirm that the artist was definitely against moving the piece, to which Ms. Osborne replied yes. Ms. deJong felt that the point of building the bench was to move and protect the Totem. Ms. Osborne reinforced the point that the Commission could still take action and move the piece to the bench, and that she was only sharing the conversation she had with the artist.

Ms. Morgan agreed with the artist that aesthetically, the piece would not match the bench design. The Commission discussed the possibility of changing the design of the acrylic to better fit the Totem design. Ms. Osborne shared that moving the piece in and of itself would be a challenge – Ms. Delaney can't recall exactly how the base was attached to the piece, and the base itself is very heavy, presenting some concern for how well it would be supported on the bench. This would warrant the need for a new base.

Ms. Osborne once again stated that the artist would be willing to assist regardless of the outcome of tonight's vote. Ms. deJong felt the need to proceed. Chair Lieu stated that the artist was simply providing her opinion but is being respectful of the fact that the city owns the piece. Ms. Osborne also reminded the Commission that the fiscal year was quickly winding down, and that the longer the vote was delayed, the tighter the timeline becomes.

Ms. Wilson-Johnson felt that access to the piece if it were moved would be a concern. Chair Lieu wanted to be mindful of the fact that the artist may not always be around to fix it, and that moving it to the bench would not make it any easier to fix or repair if necessary. Chair Lieu asked that the Commission make a decision tonight but be respectful of the artist while also keeping in mind what they feel would be best for the piece and the aesthetic of the bench. Ms. Morgan asked to clarify what it would mean to proceed with this project. Chair Lieu responded that the Commission would first need to decide what to do with the piece, and then another vote would follow regarding an approval of the acrylic.

The Commission discussed the potential of altering the color of the acrylic. Vice-Chair Hastings wondered whether it would be best to explore multiple options for the acrylic as opposed to just one design. Ms. deJong asked to walk over to the bench to discuss options. The Commission continued the meeting at the site of the Totem and the bench in the Development Center at the lobby of City Hall. The Commission agreed that the plain water design would best suit the bench. However, upon examining the bench, they felt that the stone base of the totem would be too heavy to be supported.

The Commission continued the meeting back in the Community Room, where Ms. Morgan asked whether they could revisit moving Totem at all. She opined that the Totem looks more in place now that all of the walls on the first floor have been painted. Ms. Meitt and Ms. Wilson-Johnson agreed. Ms. Welch also agreed, but felt that it should be moved just slightly to be closer to the corner.

Ms. deJong argued that the problem with the piece has always been children tampering with it. Chair Lieu agreed that by sitting on the floor, it is more susceptible to being touched. If it keeps degrading where it is because of the location, we are not looking at our investment well.

Ms. Morgan felt that with all of the opinions, input of the artist, and looking at all elements again, she did not feel that Totem should be in the center of the bench. Chair Lieu noted that there were 4 Commissioners in favor of leaving the piece where it was, and 2 in favor of moving it. She asked Vice-Chair Hastings his opinion, to which he responded that he was leaning towards leaving it because he didn't feel it would look right among the blue of the acrylic.

Call to the Public: Andy Cepon – I've seen that piece since it was installed, I've seen two times where kids have touched it. I agree that the best place would be on the floor, I don't think that maintenance would be an issue. The thing about moving it to where you're talking about, it will have constant monitoring by staff. Where it is currently is exposed to kids or people. At a minimum, if it stays on the floor it should be placed under a surveillance camera.

Vice-Chair Hastings wanted to move forward because they had come so far, but he didn't want to settle. It should be taken care of, but he did not feel this was the solution. Ms. Welch was mostly concerned about the issue of the weight of the granite base. Chair Lieu argued that by not moving the Totem, it would at least save the expense of moving it and deciding that it does not look good in the new location. The acrylic can be installed and potentially revisited.

Ms. Morgan made a motion to leave the Totem placed where it is placed currently. Ms. Meitt 2nd.

5 Yes votes (Hastings, Morgan, Meitt, Welch, Wilson-Johnson). 2 No votes (Lieu, deJong). Motion carries.

Vice-Chair Hastings made a motion to move forward with the acrylic as designated in option 2 (water only) at a cost not-to-exceed \$1,200. Ms. deJong 2nd. 7 Yes votes. Motion carries.

Ms. Osborne said that she would talk to the artist about coming in to fix and maintain the Totem piece.

Item 6 – Discussion and action pertaining to the public art maintenance plan.

Ms. Osborne provided an update on the following items:

The Learning Tree – Fabrication of the new pages is underway, roughly 4-6 week lead time, vendor to call with installation date.

Reflections of Surprise – Connie Whitlock unable to locate a vendor to clean & re-grout the mural. We cannot move forward with restoring the mural without doing this first, according to the artist. Ms. deJong suggested contacting the original artist who did the tile work and would provide that contact information to Ms. Osborne.

Give Your Community a Hand – Connie provided a quote, however because it is a third party, some research would need to be done with Finance as to how best we could pursue this option. Ms. Osborne will still be seeking other means of removal in the meantime.

Life in AZ – A quote was provided by Connie Whitlock for \$281. Ms. Osborne explained that the Commission simply needs to formally accept the quote.

Ms. Wilson-Johnson moved to approve the repair of Life in Arizona at a cost not to exceed \$300. Vice-Chair Hastings 2nd. 6 Yes votes. 1 Abstain (Lieu). Motion carries.

Item 7 – Discussion pertaining to the acquisition of art for Fiscal Year 2019.

Ms. deJong would like to look into the option of the Mobile Museum, similar to what Goodyear has. She recalled hearing a \$9,000 quote for 2 tents with printing, all of the signage, tablecloths, and vertical flags.

Chair Lieu concurred, reasoning that there is no particular piece of artwork the Commission has in mind to acquire. With this display being used in a public venue, it would be a reasonable use of funds. For the purpose of the vote, she hoped to simply initiate the process. Ms. deJong added that due to the bond money from the 1.3% ordinance being used for art purchases, this would be the best time to invest into this display.

Ms. Welch moved to pursue pricing for the tent display. Vice-Chair Hastings 2nd. 7 Yes votes. Motion carries.

Item 8 – Discussion pertaining to the City Hall art gallery.

Ms. deJong introduced a list of all gallery shows up to 2020. Ms. Welch asked how far out it is customary to schedule these shows, to which Ms. deJong replied at least a year. She added that using the showcases is a new feature. The Charter school display was the first to use it, and the Friends of the Library bookmark contest will be next. When future Calls to Artist go out to WHAM, they will include a request for 3-D art.

Ms. deJong was happy to take any suggestions for 3-D shows. Chair Lieu asked that everyone

begin thinking of the next shows and make suggestions. Ms. Wilson-Johnson suggested offering space for art classes to display their finished products. Ms. Meitt said that the difficult thing with art classes is that we would need to supply the frames, which would be difficult. Ms.

Morgan felt there would be an issue with that if requirements were put out and people pass up

on the opportunity, leaving the cases empty. She added that this supports the need for an artist source list. Chair Lieu asked that the Commission take into consideration that we need at least 60 pieces, framed, gallery ready, appropriate for city hall, WVAC handles curation, artists need to transport everything.

Ms. Welch suggested reaching out to the Dysart school district Superintendent. Ms. Lieu said that while Dr. Kellis is very art-friendly, the responsibility will fall on the art teachers. Frames are the biggest issue. Ms. deJong shared that in the past, the Commission tried putting out a show with Dysart and got frames for them, but they still did not follow through. She did the same with the charter schools and they pulled through and have continued to do so. The schools have to be willing to do it. A lot of artists tend not to want to participate because we don't have much exposure.

Ms. Meitt asked about using Vanguard, AZ water color, or florals and blooms, which was popular. Chair Lieu asked that the Commissioners think of ideas and compile a list, with particular attention to the 3-D display.

Item 9 – Discussion pertaining to the requested budget for Fiscal Year 2020.

Ms. Osborne talked about the recent budget discussions. The staffing request made the first cut, and the next step is budget presentations to Council, which begin on February 19th during the work session. Additionally, she informed the Commission of a request by Council to set aside a portion of the Neighborhood Services Grants to be dedicated to art organizations/requests. A final budget amount has not been determined yet. This essentially fulfills the Commission's request to have an art-specific grant through the city. The process will more than likely include review by the Arts Commission for art grant applications.

Chair Lieu asked for more information on the art grant process and expressed concern that it would not meet the criteria that they were hoping for. Ms. Osborne felt that the Commission should explore this new option for the first year and make suggestions for the next year, since

it would not be efficient to have two sources of grant funds dedicated to the arts. Chair Lieu also asked for regular updates on the budget, but Ms. Osborne explained that staff would not know the final adopted amount until the full budget adoption in June.

Ms. deJong brought up a suggestion to use the bus tour budget to perhaps take high school or junior high school kids to the 3 galleries in the City next fiscal year. Chair Lieu responded that if the Commission were to consider offering the money to the schools, she would like to consider offering these trips as grants.

Other Business and Future Agenda Items:

Mobile museum (art acquisition)
Maintenance Plan

Display Plan (history wall)
City Hall Open House
Budget update

ADJOURNMENT – Motion to adjourn 8:30 p.m. – Vice-Chair Hastings, 2nd by Ms. Wilson-Johnson.
7 Yes votes. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Paul Bernardo, Community Partnerships
Manager.

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 4, 2019.

Danielle Osborne, Management Analyst