

CITY OF SURPRISE  
ARTS AND CULTURAL ADVISORY COMMISSION

**Meeting Minutes – Approved**

March 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, Kathie Morgan, Rhiannon Miatt.

Absent: Deborah Welch, Sally Wilson-Johnson

Staff: Danielle Osborne, Management Analyst

**B. Pledge of Allegiance**

**C. Current Events Reports**

Chair Lieu attended the WHAM opening of their framed art exhibit, which was just taken down, but there will be a new show soon. She also was in Las Vegas for a teacher convention, and while there attended a lunar year celebration, where she saw a traditional dragon dance. There was also an exhibit for the Chinese Year of the Pig at the Bellagio. She attended the Poetry Out Loud regional finals run by the AZ Commission on the Arts, where she ran into a few people from the West Valley. They are going to have the state finals on the 16<sup>th</sup> of March. She was part of two CIP meetings regarding larger projects and an update meeting on Fire Station 304. She also took students to the Vision & Sound exhibit at Arts HQ, where the featured artist was in attendance. She loved the show and felt that the Commission should continue supporting this. Last weekend, she stopped in Fountain Hills where they have a huge Community/Arts/Library/Museum area that has a large sculpture garden. The garden has signage but also has a QR code on each sign that provides even more information about the artist and leads to an interactive cell phone tour. She felt that we should possibly incorporate this as we get more public art. One thing Chair Lieu noticed about the sculpture garden was that the Commission has attempted to create a theme in the past, but Fountain Hills did not have a theme, and it still looked amazing. She judged the Friends of the Library bookmark contest and just got through helping with the display. Additionally, Connie Whitlock sent a message request to her from Lisa Gray, who works in the State Legislature; each year, Arizona holds a Congressional art contest, and this year they needed a space to exhibit their artwork provided by the 28 participating schools. WHAM will be providing the venue, and would like to partner with the Commission to help with hanging, display, and publicity. This is great for the city, and the first time Chair Lieu has ever seen it exhibited in the West Valley. She would like to add it to the next agenda. The exhibit will be open at the end of April.

Ms. Morgan attended a cultural event sponsored by Phoenix Business and Professional Women in celebration of Chinese New Year. She also attended performances at the Gammage Theater and the Orpheum.

Ms. Mielt went to Oahu, and stayed at the Disney Resort, which had an art installation with an interactive element. There are murals all around Oahu, and everywhere she went she saw something. Ms. Mielt noted that street art is encouraged there. She also attended the Atlas program with Theater Works, and would like to talk with them about partnering for Vision & Sound next year. She also spoke with a local artist who is interested in displaying in our cases.

Vice-Chair Hastings assisted with the bookmark contest display in the Mayor's Atrium.

Ms. deJong participated in the bookmark contest judging, went to the West Valley Symphony performances, and attended meetings with Council Members about Public Art, and bond issues. She attended planning meetings for Western Nights, and attended the WHAM Art Show, where the featured artist was Linda Stahl. She assisted with the Poetry Slam, which had a number of wonderful poets, and went to an art festival at Coronado Park. She met with Ms. Welch to begin the Parks and Trails project, and went to the West Valley Symphony Jam Session and performance by Los Tres Tenores. She met with Julie Neal, Connie Whitlock, and Chair Lieu regarding an art space in the Techcelerator for WHAM. She attended the final event for the Vision & Sound exhibit, and attended a CIP meeting for the Fire Station Art. Finally, she helped with arranging the bookmarks.

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

Ms. Osborne reported on the following items:

- Suggestion by resident to pursue art by Kelsey Montague
  - Ms. Montague has existing murals throughout the Phoenix Metro area, but also worldwide
- Local artist Larry Burkin is offering some of his paintings up for sale
- If the Commission would like to pursue either of these options, we can place them on a future agenda

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

None.

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

##### **Item 1 – Consideration and action approving the February 4, 2019 Arts and Cultural Advisory Commission Meeting minutes.**

Ms. Mielt moved to approve the minutes of the February 4, 2019 Arts and Cultural Advisory Commission meeting. Vice-Chair Hastings 2<sup>nd</sup>. 5 Yes votes. 2 Absent (Welch & Wilson-Johnson). Motion carried.

##### **Item 2 – Discussion and possible action pertaining to the Arts & Cultural Advisory**

**Commission hosting a table at the City Hall open house event to showcase the Commission's events and activities, while promoting the art and cultural initiatives taking place in the city.**

Chair Lieu spoke with Mayor Hall, who informed her that he couldn't make it to the meeting but any questions that arise from the meeting may be directed through Ms. Osborne. The State of the City/Open House Event will take place on March 28<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 – 8:00 p.m. The goal is to inform the public of what the Commission does. Chair Lieu felt that traditionally what would take place is that the Commission would share information about other organizations, but this time they really need to push what the Commission itself does. She also asked that Commissioners think of an interactive activity to draw people in. Ms. deJong suggested that they give away their public art maps and event flyers.

Ms. Mielt suggested a flyer that shows how residents can get involved. Ms. Morgan stated that she had put something together some time back that stated who the Commission is, when they meet, and invited people to participate and join. It didn't go into detail but was very clean.

For an interactive component, Ms. Mielt suggested the polaroid camera collage planned for Fiesta Grande. Chair Lieu said that those had since been returned. Ms. Morgan suggested disposable cameras instead. Chair Lieu said that while the cameras were cheap, film and development were expensive. Ms. Morgan suggested another string art activity similar to Art Week 2017. Ms. deJong suggested the chalkboard tablecloth instead. Ms. Osborne suggested combining the two concepts into one activity – the chalkboard tablecloth, but ask people to use specific colors that are designated to a certain type of art that they prefer: white means theater, pink means painting, etc. Ms. Mielt liked this concept and shared that it was similar to one done at the Goodyear Lakeside Music Festival.

Ms. deJong asked for two tables – one for the chalkboard cloth, and one for the regular tablecloth and flyers. Chair Lieu suggested that the Commission use this opportunity to do a survey. Ms. Osborne reminded the Commission that there would be many activities taking place at once, and that it may be difficult to have people stay in one place to take a survey.

Vice-Chair Hastings preferred to keep the display simple but liked the idea of a flyer for how to get involved. Ms. Morgan agreed, saying that the booth should focus more on the Arts Commission and how it represents other organizations as well.

The Commissioners concluded that they would need two tables, the purple tablecloth, the chalkboard tablecloths, public art maps, chalk, and flyers, possibly including one on how to get involved.

**Item 3 – Discussion and possible action pertaining to the purchase of a Mobile Museum display.**

Ms. Osborne shared that after her research, roughly \$4,000 should get most of the equipment, but until she knows the focus of the display, she cannot come up with a final figure. She asked the Commission to narrow the focus of the display – would it be historical, would it be artistic in nature, etc.

Chair Lieu felt that they should incorporate the history of Surprise since they are the Arts and *Cultural* Advisory Commission. Ms. Mielt agreed, referencing a historical article she read in the Arizona Republic a few years back and how it got rave reviews. She felt that

people like and enjoy history. Ms. deJong felt that a historical focus would help their chances at being at more festivals. Ms. Miett agreed, stating that Goodyear's Mobile Museum is a self-guided tour and does not always have to be manned. Vice-Chair Hastings suggested having an interactive element where kids can draw or participate.

Ms. Miett asked who designed the display in Goodyear, to which Ms. deJong replied that a Commissioner who also happened to be a history professor at ASU curated the display. Ms. Osborne added that the city already has a designated historian in Sherry Aguilar, City Clerk.

Ms. Morgan suggested that part of the display be about an eye to the future and the type of art the Commission is looking for. Ms. Miett suggested that this be the interactive element. Chair Lieu also requested a display specific to the existing art activities in the city. She opined that the Commission should start by keeping it simple, and then look to expand in future years.

Ms. Morgan asked if there was any problem with having a tent that was not white. Ms. Osborne replied that since the activities in which the Commission would participate are almost exclusively run by the city, this should not be a problem.

Ms. Osborne stated that she would work with the Communications department on some conceptual displays regarding the history of Surprise, current public art, and existing art encounters.

#### **Item 4 – Discussion and possible action pertaining to the public art maintenance plan.**

Ms. Osborne provided an update to the Commission regarding art maintenance progress. Fabrication of *The Learning Tree* book pages is underway, and while there is no scheduled installation date, staff anticipates the pages will be installed Mid-March. Artist Laurel Delaney cleaned, polished, and refurbished *Totem* and it looks like new again. WHAM has been paid to restore *Life in Arizona*, but because of a busy season, Director Connie Whitlock will look for an opportunity in her schedule and drop in to make the repairs. Ms. Osborne will notify the Commission upon completion.

Ms. Osborne also asked Ms. Whitlock about proceeding with the removal of *Give Your Community a Hand*, which Ms. Whitlock is working on putting together a proposal, but the price of \$1,200 still stands. The Finance Department was notified and would be able to work with WHAM for this removal. Ms. Osborne reminded the Commission that this price was for removal only, and if there was enough funding left over from the current fiscal year, they could pursue repairing it, otherwise they could look into repairing it using next year's funds. Upon removal, the mosaic will be stored on city property.

Ms. Osborne also reached out to *Reflections of Surprise* mosaic artist Niki Glen, who no longer does tile work herself, but passed along a few suggestions. Ms. Osborne also reached out to painter Roger Merritt, who is anxious to restore the mural portion of the art piece. His price is \$6,000, not including tax. She is working out the details with Mr. Merritt, but is seeking approval of funding for both projects at the prices stated previously, with additional funds available for taxes - not to exceed \$9,000.

Ms. deJong asked if the tile work needed to be completed prior to the painting. Ms. Osborne replied that she asked both Ms. Glen and Mr. Merritt and they said that the tile and paint would not interfere with one another, and that whatever is not being repaired could be masked off.

Ms. deJong motioned to approve repairs of the wall and painting the library not to exceed \$9000. Ms. Miatt 2<sup>nd</sup>. 5 Yes votes. 2 Absent (Welch & Wilson-Johnson). Motion carried.

**Item 5 – Discussion pertaining to the Arts & Culture Master Plan Short Term Goal – Future Public Art Installations.**

Ms. deJong reviewed the parks and trails maps from the Parks & Trails Master Plan with Ms. Welch, but they decided that they are going to make an appointment with CRS Director Donna Miller in order to identify specific areas in order to be able to walk through them. Chair Lieu asked what the next step would be upon orienting themselves. Ms. deJong responded that they would familiarize themselves and get an idea of what each trail and path looks like. They are hoping to be able to designate areas along various trails to install public art.

Ms. Osborne added that Ms. deJong raised a previous question regarding the Community Paths listed on the maps. Ms. Osborne spoke with Donna Miller and she responded that those paths are typically within HOA communities and may not be within our jurisdiction. However she added that if she has further specific questions, she may reach out to Ms. Miller directly.

**Item 6 – Discussion pertaining to the History Wall project for City Hall.**

Ms. Osborne shared that she would need to have a better idea of the direction of the display in order to pursue costs. Chair Lieu responded that it would span a variety of sizes and types of media. City Clerk Sherry Aguilar had previously printed large-scale pieces, and she saved some stained glass pieces from the Old City Hall, which they want to put on the history wall. They are thinking about framing or suspending historical artifacts collected from over the years, and they want to showcase the old logo and the new logo, almost like a timeline.

Ms. deJong referenced some photos that were shared in a Commission meeting last year, which Ms. Osborne said she would search for. Ms. Miatt asked about incorporating Spring Training photos, to which Ms. deJong added that she has an engraved bat. Chair Lieu echoed her support for suspending historical artifacts, but asked who would hang them. Ms. deJong responded that the Facilities department would hang them, but Ms. Osborne countered that in her experience, they are not comfortable working with art pieces and would likely ask her to contract out that service to an organization or group that has experience with hanging art.

Ms. deJong asked about previous plans to paint a silver stripe across the top of the wall, which would help to draw attention to the display. Chair Lieu asked if that quote was ever pursued, to which Ms. deJong replied that it had been and came to around \$2,000 because of the length of the wall. Ms. Miatt asked if it was really necessary, to which Chair Lieu replied that it was and that it would help break up the single tone of the wall. She added that they would also incorporate colored framing that would help unify the display.

Ms. Osborne stated that she would look into framing costs and locate the previous painting quote.

**Item 7 – Update and discussion pertaining to the requested budget for Fiscal Year 2020.**

Ms. Osborne shared that while she did not have much to update on, she was able to share that the City Manager’s Office budget would be presented on March 19<sup>th</sup>. She also clarified that the request to allocate money for an art organization from an existing grant fund would come from the Community Outreach Grant, not the Neighborhood Services Grant as previously reported. Ms. Osborne stated that she would continue to update the Commission as she became aware of more budget-related progress.

**Other Business and Future Agenda Items:**

Chair Lieu reminded the Commission that tomorrow (March 5<sup>th</sup>), the Friends of the Library would be presenting the winners of the Bookmark Contest to City Council. She asked that the Commissioners let Ms. Osborne know if they are planning to attend so that Manuel de Leon could get a rough count. She added that on March 27<sup>th</sup>, a reception would be held in the Mayor’s Atrium at 5:00 p.m. to close off the contest. She again asked that the Commissioners notify Ms. Osborne if they were planning to attend that or the Open House the following day, in order to get a head count.

Future Agenda Items:

Mobile Museum design

Art Maintenance – Restroom at Bicentennial, Learning Tree artist to paint lettering

Development Center Bench

History Wall

Two artist requests – Larry Burkin and Kelsey Montague

Congressional Arts Awards partnering with WHAM

**ADJOURNMENT** – Motion to adjourn 7:18 p.m. – Vice-Chair Hastings, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. deJong. 5 Yes votes. 2 Absent (Welch & Wilson-Johnson). 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 March 4, 2019.

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Danielle Osborne, Management Analyst