

CITY OF SURPRISE
ARTS AND CULTURAL ADVISORY COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes – Approved

July 1, 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, Rhiannon Mielt, Deborah Welch, Susan deJong, Kathie Morgan, Crystal Miller.

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

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Current Events Reports

Chair Lieu welcomed the newest commission member, Crystal Miller. Chair Lieu asked the group to limit the reports to things that would directly impact the commission. Chair Lieu reported that the bond art panel had a meeting regarding the Public Works Operations Facility, and that they were able to choose a winning designer, who also happens to be the same designer for the Brian Mancini project. They will be meeting with the designer to review the proposal. She also had a meeting with Kristin from the AZ Commission on the Arts, who provided valuable information for how to do larger Calls to Artists and get as many submissions as possible. She also participated in the AZ Department of Education panel to decide on a graduation seal for fine arts; they are going into policy to approve it and get the board of education to approve it, and then they will send all of their information off to all of the public schools. This will help schools get an arts education seal on their diplomas. She explained that this could help make Surprise schools competitive. Lastly, Chair Lieu attended a retirement celebration for Rusty Foley of the AZ Citizens for the Arts. This organization helped to get the state legislature to pass the \$2 million for the arts fund. Ms. Foley was an integral part of the organization for years, and she is excited about her next chapter.

Ms. deJong met with representatives from all of the schools for the MLK event, planning is now underway. She attended a Stage Left theater performance in hopes that a partnership with the organization could come about. She also attended the meeting with Kristin Pierce regarding the Calls to Artists. She attended the WHAM opening for Betty Schultz, and went to the latest Poetry Slam.

Ms. Morgan met with Deborah for AZ Humanities Speaker Series, and she met with Deborah and Rhiannon regarding art for the Mobile Museum.

Ms. deJong shared the latest issue of the Progress magazine, which had an ad for the arts.

D. Staff Reports

None.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Mayor Skip Hall – welcomed new commissioner Crystal Miller. He said that she is part of a great commission, and that art is alive in Surprise. He shared that he was excited to have Stage Left Theater in Surprise, as well as the numerous other art initiatives currently taking place.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS – NON PUBLIC HEARING

Item 1 – Consideration and action approving the June 3, 2019 Arts and Cultural Advisory Commission Meeting minutes.

Ms. Welch asked that the portion of the minutes where it states that she “argued” something instead be changed to something less strong.

Ms. Mielt moved to approve the minutes of the June 3, 2019 Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission meeting as amended. Ms. Welch 2nd. 7 Yes votes. Motion carried.

Item 2 – Consideration and action to appoint a Chair and Vice-Chair for the Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission.

Chair Lieu asked Ms. Osborne to review the selection process. Ms. Osborne explained that just as with last year, paper ballots would be utilized this year. The Chair will open the floor to nominations, and anyone can self-nominate or nominate others. All nominees have the opportunity to accept or decline. After all nominations have been made, a motion must be made and seconded to close the nomination period. The Chair may then open the floor to discussion. Once discussion has ceased, any Calls to Public will be heard. Once all public comments have been made, each commissioner will make their vote via paper ballot, and pass it down to staff, who will then read the votes aloud. The selected individual must have four or more votes to be considered the winner. The selections will take place separately for Chair and Vice-Chair.

Chair Lieu opened the floor to nominations for the position of Chair. Ms. Mielt nominated Ms. Welch, who declined due to what she felt was a lack of experience.

Vice-Chair Hastings nominated Margaret Lieu, who accepted.

Seeing no other nominations, Ms. Morgan moved to close the nomination period. Ms. Welch 2nd. Seeing no public comment, Chair Lieu asked that the commissioners cast their votes. Ms. Osborne read the votes aloud. Unanimous vote for Margaret Lieu to serve as Chair.

Chair Lieu moved on to the Vice-Chair selection. Ms. Mielt nominated Ms. Welch, who accepted.

Vice-Chair Hastings nominated Ms. Mielt, but she declined due to a busy schedule.

Seeing no other nominations, Ms. deJong moved to close the nomination period. Vice-Chair Hastings 2nd. Seeing no public comment, Chair Lieu asked that the commissioners cast their

votes. Ms. Osborne read the votes aloud. Unanimous vote for Deborah Welch to serve as Vice-Chair.

Item 3 – Discussion and action pertaining to the recommended 1.3% for the Arts-funded project, to be installed at the site of the new Public Works Operations Facility.

Chair Lieu referred to the current art installation, and how the Commission was given permission for the artist to either tear it down or re-purpose the existing piece. She reviewed the facilities that are at the campus where the art will be installed. The selected artist recommended a re-purposing of the existing monument at the campus, but with a new theme. The proposal was submitted for \$70,000, but they included two alternatives within budget. In one case, they would sacrifice either the three-dimensionality, and in the other, they would sacrifice the letters and lighting. The Water Resource Management department head said that his department could install these elements later. Chair Lieu opened the floor to questions.

Ms. Mielt added that the selected piece stood out among the others. Chair Lieu felt that it encompassed all of the hard work that the staff there do, and that it had the industrial look that they wanted. Additionally, money would be saved by not having to tear down the original piece. Ms. Miller wanted to clarify whether the art would be lit at some point; without lighting, she felt that it would not be worth installing art at the location. Chair Lieu responded that it would be lit, just funded by the Water Resource Management department. Both Mr. Hastings and Vice-Chair Welch voiced their approval. Ms. Miller said that the concept was gorgeous. Ms. deJong asked whether the commission would need to wait until after the follow-up meeting to take action. Ms. Osborne responded that since the intent is to work within the proposed concept, and that nothing major would be changed, the commission could take action to approve, and let the panel proceed with its upcoming meeting with the designer to review the alternatives they provided. Ms. Osborne clarified that the motion tonight would also be to recommend the proposed design to the City Council.

Ms. Mielt moved to recommend for City Council approval the proposed design by Logan Simpson to be installed at the roundabout of the Public Works Operations Facility at a cost not-to-exceed \$50,000. Vice-Chair Welch 2nd. 7 Yes votes. Motion carried.

Item 4 – Update, discussion, and possible action pertaining to a Fiscal Year 2020 budget overview.

Chair Lieu wanted to get an overview of the budget so that the group could pre-plan projects in case projects fall through and another can be subbed in its place. Chair Lieu asked Ms. Osborne to explain the budget sheet included in the agenda packet.

Ms. Osborne explained that each line item's total was indicated at the bottom of the sheet, and that any projects previously discussed and earmarked for this fiscal year have been set aside, along with their proposed budget. She also explained that the bottom of the sheet shows a category of funding called the Municipal Arts Fund, which has funding set aside by the 1.3% for the Arts ordinance as a result of non-municipal bond related CIP projects. Finally, there is one additional category of funding called Donations, which has been an accumulation of money from over the past several years.

Ms. deJong clarified whether the Municipal Arts Fund would need to be tied to the bond projects. Ms. Osborne replied that no, it is in addition to the bond-funded art projects. She

further explained that per the 1.3% ordinance, funding is subject to expiration at the end of three years, but may be extended up to two years with City Manager approval. The first year of funding, which took place in FY2018 and totals \$6,700, is due to expire on June 30, 2020. Ms. Mielt clarified whether the funds could be used for anything. Ms. Bernardo responded no, the money must be used for public art in Surprise. Vice-Chair Welch asked if these funds could be subbed in for earmarked funds from their general fund budget to help with projects, to which Mr. Bernardo responded that it could, as long as it was for the procurement and installation of a piece of public art. Vice-Chair Welch asked whether those funds could be used to pay for the centerpiece of the development center bench, to which Ms. Osborne responded that it should be permissible, however she would need to research that before giving a definitive answer. She added that as ideas come about and funding from this source begins to be set aside for use, she would approach the Finance department to iron out the details and permitted uses.

Call to the Public – Andy Cepon. Mr. Cepon said that the city is a decade or so behind where it should be as far as art goes. The city and Mayor and Council have done a lot to put arts to the forefront. He clarified that if what he was hearing is correct, that these funds would be used to bring the city up to speed on art.

Mr. Bernardo said that art is front and center in Surprise and that the intent of these funds is to help get that visibility. Seeing no further discussion, Chair Lieu moved on.

Item 5 – Discussion and possible action pertaining to the display within the Mobile Museum.

Chair Lieu turned it over to the working group to update the full commission on their direction. Ms. Mielt said that while they don't have any pictures at this time, Ms. Morgan has an article regarding research and how art impacts well-being, healthcare, and more. She will send it to Ms. Osborne to distribute to the Commission. Ms. Mielt further shared that the group is planning for one display to be about how art means business in Surprise, and show some statistics and infographics which detail how art accomplishes this.

Vice-Chair Welch further highlighted how art is beneficial to the city and individuals' health. They plan to highlight Benevilla, and the artwork there. Additionally, there would be an emphasis on how arts improves the health and well-being of the military. She elaborated that Surprise can be highlighted as the #1 retirement community for Veterans, and an emphasis can be placed on Veterans' arts programming in the city.

Ms. Morgan discussed how the article was written in response to the Americans for the Arts survey. The plan is to take the headers from the survey such as "Arts improves academic performance," and do a photo display for each of them. Ms. Mielt added that while the entire article may not apply to individuals, by piecing apart the different headlines, it can be demonstrated that there are components of art that apply to individuals based on their interests. Ms. Morgan said that essentially, this display is an attempt to ask for support for the arts. The end of the article asks "Which of the reasons to support the arts applies to you?"

The Commission discussed the types of photos that could be used for the display. Chair Lieu asked Ms. Osborne to look into having staff take photos of kids when they have their reception for the art shows, so that there would be more photos of youth engaging in the arts.

Ms. Mielt shared that the working group had been trying to think of ways for the commission to make the setup of the display easy. Ms. Miller shared that she had done printing work for seven years, and could probably help in that area. She recommended foam core or corrugated plastic to print the images on and help withstand wear and tear and weather damage over the years. She asked for some history on the project, since she was new. Ms. Mielt detailed that this display would be similar to that of the City of Goodyear, where there are history displays, as well as other displays that can be swapped out in their Mobile Museum. Ms. Miller shared that she has good friends who own a print company, and that she would be happy to call them and pick their brain on how best to achieve this display. Right off the bat, her best recommendation is corrugated plastic, because it can withstand moisture, is easy to print on, and can be printed on both sides.

In discussing the display topic, Chair Lieu suggested talking about the West Valley economic impact study from WestMARC. She added that one of the hardest things to sell to the public is why money is being spent on the arts, but if the public is able to see how it impacts them, it may be convincing. Ms. Mielt suggested that over time, the display can be built upon by collecting quotes from people as they visit the Mobile Museum.

Ms. Morgan inquired as to whether the next meeting to plan out the finite details should be done within the working group, since there are 9 headers total. Ms. Osborne said that this would be the most efficient use of time. Chair Lieu wondered if there should be a separate infographic with all of the details included in the display that could be handed out to people. Ms. Mielt liked the idea and said that something creative, like a bookmark or other object they can take with them would be ideal. Chair Lieu liked the idea of a bookmark because it is something small, but contain lots of information. An infographic is a great way to achieve the sharing of information without it being too text-heavy. Ms. Morgan said that for the infographic to make sense, there should be a full representation of the art somewhere in the tent. She said that she and the working group would iron out those details, then get with staff to move forward with a draft.

Item 6 – Discussion and possible action regarding the repainting of the letters on “The Learning Tree.”

Chair Lieu asked Ms. deJong to describe what needs to be done. Ms. deJong shared that there are letters on the piece that need to be painted in copper, and that they just need an artist with a steady hand to paint it. Once that is complete, The Learning Tree rehab will be done. Chair Lieu elaborated that the person would need to go into the letter and touchup the paint. The Commission discussed possibly having an art student perform this work, since it was a relatively simple project. Ms. deJong said that she would contact the fine arts teachers and see if any students would like to make some money. Ms. Mielt suggested that staff also reach out to the West Valley Arts Council and inquire about taking on a Gallery 37 student. Ms. deJong said that she would send details of what needs to be done to staff, so that they can pass the information along to potential artists.

Item 7 – Discussion and possible action pertaining to the maintenance efforts on the “Reflections of Surprise” mural at the Northwest Regional Library.

Chair Lieu introduced the item and shared that she feels that another artist should be contacted to touch up the mural. She clarified that this is the clay and painted mural above the library. We had initially asked Marty to do the grouting, but she has also done the painting. The problem is that she didn't match most of the colors to the original, which were

hand-mixed; instead she chose pre-established colors from the store. Ms. Morgan asked why she did the paint if she was only supposed to perform the grout work. Ms. Osborne clarified that after the original artist of the mural was contacted, she proceeded to work with him up to the point of sending him a service agreement that needed to be signed, so that he could then move forward with the work. Unfortunately after sending him the service agreement, she never heard back from him. Ms. Osborne tried to follow up with him for two months via phone and email, but never received any contact from him after that point. This is when she approached the commission about working with other artists. Connie from WHAM referred her to Marty Wolfe, who agreed to meet and assess the mural. When they met, Ms. Wolfe shared that not only could she perform the grout work, but also the paint restoration. With the funding for restoration previously approved by the commission, and knowing that Ms. Wolfe had done some art work for the city previously, Ms. Osborne moved forward with Ms. Wolfe as the sole restoration artist for the mural. After some time, it became apparent that she was not matching the original colors or style of the painted portion, which she discussed with Ms. Wolfe. Ms. Wolfe said that she was firmly of the belief that the colors she chose would match what the colors were originally, and that sun damage combined with normal wear and tear would have faded the colors to what they are today. Ms. Wolfe also stated that she would not be able to do the airbrushed/blending technique performed by the original artist, but the commission was welcome to seek out another artist who could blend the colors to their preference. With these options in mind, Ms. Osborne and Chair Lieu decided it would be best to finish out the work in-progress, and seek a new artist to further enhance the mural. Ms. Osborne said that while the situation is not ideal, the silver lining is that they were only charged \$2,000 for the work performed, which is a fraction of what it would have cost to perform restorations to either portion of the mural on its own. At the very least, the grout work has been completed, and all that is left is the paint restoration.

Chair Lieu shared a side-by-side image of before and after the work was performed. Vice-Chair Welch agreed that the finished product altered the painting, saying that it looked block painted rather than gradient. Chair Lieu said that her biggest concern was that the intent of the painting had been changed. Ms. Mielt said that she may know an artist who could perform the work, and that she would get them in touch with Ms. Osborne. Ms. deJong worried about if the paint was sealed and whether it could be touched up. Chair Lieu said that it could be done even if it was sealed, but asked Ms. Osborne to look into whether it was sealed or not. Ms. Osborne said that she recalled an artist who had submitted a proposal for the City Cashier mural, who has restored murals in other cities. She is familiar with a piece that was restored for the City of Tolleson, and said that she would reach out to some staff that she knows there and get the artist's contact information. Chair Lieu asked for a consensus that the whole group was in agreement that the painting needed to be restored, to which everyone replied yes. Ms. Osborne said that she would gather up some contacts and have a few artists assess the mural.

Item 8 – Discussion and action pertaining to the finalization and payment of the AZ Humanities Speaker series.

Chair Lieu turned it over to Ms. Morgan to report out to the full Commission. Ms. Morgan reported that she spoke with AZ Humanities and they are having delays in publishing their catalogues, but they anticipate that early July is when everything will be ready. Despite this, 5 dates in November through June have been secured with the speakers. One of the presenters from last year contacted us and shared their new topic – Chiles and Chocolate,

which has been scheduled for February. Ms. Morgan further stated that this year's theme will be "the Southwest," as it was in previous years.

Chair Lieu asked what time the events were scheduled for. Ms. Morgan responded that they are all set for 11:00 a.m. She elaborated that the events all used to be held on Tuesdays, but she decided to expand them to Tuesdays and Wednesdays to reach a broader audience. As soon as the catalogue is available, she and Ms. Osborne will move forward with securing the speakers. Chair Lieu also inquired as to the ability of hosting the event on weekends or after-hours, to which Ms. Morgan deferred to staff. Ms. Osborne replied that she could look into the option of using the Council Chambers after-hours, but it would require staffing and other resources. Chair Lieu said that she was hoping to begin reaching an even bigger audience than the weekday crowd, which is why she would like to explore opportunities for expansion next year. She added that Dr. Kellis of the Dysart school district is a fan of the arts, and has already extended an invitation for the commission to utilize the district's facilities if needed. Mr. Bernardo added that there are new facilities opening at Ottawa University which could be utilized and potentially attract students. Ms. Morgan said that she has an upcoming unrelated meeting with Ottawa, and that she would bring up this idea if she is able.

Chair Lieu asked whether a motion was necessary tonight since the speaker catalogue is not yet available. Ms. Osborne responded that if the commission approves the expenditures tonight, she and Ms. Morgan could work together to secure the speakers for the upcoming year. If the commission were to choose to wait for the September meeting to approve, they run the risk of speaker dates and times being booked elsewhere, or matching funds from the AZ Humanities organization running out.

Mr. Hastings moved to approve the recommended schedule for the AZ Humanities Speaker series for Fiscal Year 2020 at a cost not-to-exceed \$500. Ms. Miatt 2nd. 7 Yes votes. Motion carried.

Item 9 – Discussion and possible action pertaining to the Calendar of Events for Fiscal Year 2020.

Chair Lieu said that besides the AZ Humanities schedule, she would like all event dates and times to be sent to Ms. deJong, so that she can draft the calendar by the 10th of this month. Ms. Morgan said that this may be difficult because we can only move as quickly as our partners, and that not every event would be finalized by the 10th. Ms. deJong said that she would take whatever events are ready, and that she would like to include the gallery exhibitions on the schedule as well.

Vice-Chair Welch asked whether the rest of the commission would have a chance to view the gallery schedule prior to distribution. Ms. Osborne responded that Ms. deJong had sent it to her, but she did not distribute it right away, and that she would do so first thing the next morning. Ms. deJong did not want to see any changes, saying that it would be rude to call back artists at this point and tell them that their work is not needed. Ms. Morgan asked what involvement by other commissioners was needed at this point if the schedule was already set, to which Chair Lieu replied that assistance would be needed in jurying artwork, setting up cases, and so on. Chair Lieu said that if Ms. Morgan was unable to help, she had already explained the galleries to Ms. Miller, who was also willing to help as-needed. Ms. deJong said that she would need at least one person to help, because setting up the display for the cases is difficult. Ms. Morgan asked whether staff could put in a work order request for the Facilities team to move the shelving ahead of time. Ms. Osborne responded

that she could, but it would need to be submitted well in advance and that they would need to know how and where to move the shelves. Ms. Morgan asked whether that information could be sent ahead of time. Ms. deJong said that this would not work, since many of the pieces are not seen in-person until they are delivered the same day that they go into the cases. Mr. Bernardo said that absent measurements or other knowledge of the pieces going into the cases, we would not be able to have the staff come in at the last minute to perform these tasks. Ms. Osborne elaborated that those staff already see a high volume of work orders, so we would need to make things as efficient as possible for them.

Chair Lieu asked that any additions or changes to the calendar be sent to Ms. deJong so that she could put together a draft and get it to staff.

Other Business and Future Agenda Items:

- Budget – planning for the year
- Calendar – plan events that we want to display or have a booth at
- Mobile Museum – update and events to have the booth at
- History Tour – Women’s History Trail
- Update on quotes for cabinet lighting or ideas on how to proceed
- History Wall
- Peace Pole update
- Reschedule September meeting due to Labor Day

Chair Lieu said that she has invited Scott Phillips to come to the August meeting and explain the City Center entertainment district to the full commission

Chair Lieu met with the developer who wants the property by Greer Ranch rezoned. If they are granted the rezone, he is very art-friendly. He would be happy to get ideas on incorporating artwork into their area. She added that the more public-private partnerships the commission can build, the better.

Chair Lieu said that she wants the commission to explore an idea she had of creating an arts partner award, and to possibly present the idea to Mayor and Council.

ADJOURNMENT – Motion to adjourn 7:46 p.m. – Ms. deJong, 2nd by Ms. Miett. 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 July 1, 2019.

Danielle Osborne, Management Analyst