

CITY OF SURPRISE
ARTS AND CULTURAL ADVISORY COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes – Approved

September 9, 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 Deborah Welch, Commission members, Rhiannon Miett, Susan deJong, Kathie Morgan, Jack Hastings.

Absent: Crystal Miller, Commission member (excused).

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

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Current Events Reports

Chair Lieu the Peace Pole slab has been installed, they are planning to have the installation completed this week. WHAM is holding an art show with an artist coming from Africa. The show is already hung, and the reception will take place September 21st. City Council passed a capital project in front of Arts HQ, where they are turning the area into a Xeriscape water conservation demonstration garden. Chair Lieu inquired as to whether the Commission would be allocated funding based on the 1 1/3% ordinance, since the project utilizes capital money. She also shared that Phyllis Stringer, a staple in the arts community, passed away on August 28th. Chair Lieu knew her since 2009 and shared some memories about her. WHAM is planning a celebration of life for her in October, and Connie Whitlock can be contacted for more details.

Ms. Miett went to Spamalot at Theater Works, which is playing for two weeks. She encouraged everyone to see it.

Mr. Hastings had Meet the Teacher night last month. Mr. Hastings attended the last two City Council meetings, including the meeting where they approved the Xeriscape Garden. He has also attended Rotary Club meetings, Planning & Zoning meetings, and the downtown City Center meeting with Mayor Hall and Councilmember Sanders.

Ms. Morgan has been focused on the Mobile Museum tent, and getting the last draft finished. She met with the work group once and Ms. Osborne twice, but will discuss the topic in detail during the agenda item. Ms. Morgan passed around a card for the speaker series, and encouraged the commission to help pass them out throughout town. She attended a performance at the Chandler Center for the Arts, for a flamenco performance. She also shared another concept for a calendar of events flyer which doubles as a hand fan.

Ms. deJong went to the Lunchtime Theater performance of Sister Act, went to the City Center Master Plan presentation, and the Poetry Slam. She also went to the exhibition opening at Arts HQ, and shared the wonderful new hanging in City Hall – fabric art, by Betty Hahn and her 102 ½ year old mother. She shared that there is a teacher’s event being held on September 25th at Arts HQ.

Chair Lieu passed around a sign-up sheet for Fiesta Grande.

D. Staff Reports

Ms. Osborne shared that the Peace Pole foundation has been poured, and installation will be taking place soon. She asked that the Commission mark their calendars for the September 21st dedication ceremony being put on by the Rotary Club, who will send an official invitation with finalized details. She further shared that she would be starting to schedule artists for review of the Library mural, so that a final artist could be selected for its restoration. Finally, she shared an update on the progress of the History Wall, saying that it currently is in the initial phase of photo and information gathering. Communications staff has developed and verified a timeline in coordination with City Clerk/Historian Sherry Aguilar. Some photos are being checked for scalability. Staff has reached out to some contacts for guidance on installation, scaling, and lighting for the project. The next step will be finalizing text and photos and starting the design phase. Staff anticipates photos and text to be finalized around mid-October, at which the working group will be convened for review. She added that she is seeking a revised quote for the re-paint of the blue wall where the history wall will reside. Finally, she shared that the RFP for the development center bench has been advertised, and will close on October 3rd.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

None.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS – NON PUBLIC HEARING

Item 1 – Consideration and action approving the August 5, 2019 Arts and Cultural Advisory Commission Meeting minutes.

Mr. Hastings moved to approve the minutes of the August 5, 2019 Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission meeting. Ms. Mielt 2nd. 6 Yes votes. 1 Absent (Miller). Motion carried.

Item 2 – Discussion related to a public mural in Surprise and potential locations and possible discussion by a local muralist regarding experiences with public murals.

This item was heard after item 3 to accommodate for technical setup.

Chair Lieu introduced guest speaker BacPac, a street artist who was invited to discuss the potential of creating a public mural for Surprise. BacPac shared she began her art career by painting motorcycles and drag racecars for a number of years until she decided to make a career out of it. The murals she typically does are public or public-private, and the medium is 100% aerosol/spray cans. She showed a mural she did for Gateway Community College which represented their programs, including water, auto safety, and agricultural engineering. One of the requests she commonly receives is to incorporate diversity into her paintings; all she asks is that if it is a request of the client to include diversity, she would like for the client that they be very specific in what they want to see. She shared another mural that reflected on work done during the Works Progress Administration program in the World War II area.

She said that the more information a client provides to her, the easier it is for her to create exactly what they want. She said that some past projects have had her working with young kids to collaborate on murals, and shared an example where the kids painted tomato plants as part of an agricultural element. She showed another mural which was made as a tribute to Veterans, and incorporated soldiers from all recent wars. She also shared a public-private mural she created for the outside of a woman's house. BacPac referred to street art as 60mph art which is seen as you drive down the street.

BacPac reviewed some of the roadblocks she has faced with public art in an effort to help the commission streamline the process, regardless of who they decided to contract with. Chair Lieu asked whether any of BacPac's murals can be found on the west side of the valley, to which she responded no. BacPac pursued a mural at the Sage and Sand Bar, but it eventually fell through. Ms. Morgan inquired about the cost of BacPac's mural. BacPac said that she prices her murals based on square footage. She said that she charges \$5/sq. ft. for anything that can be reached on a ladder, \$12-\$16/sq. ft. for anything higher depending on the equipment needed, and \$16/sq. ft. for anything requiring a scissor lift. She said that her mural of a koi pond which was 35 ft. long by 10 ft. high cost around \$3500 including materials. She said that the paints she uses are durable and don't scrape or chip off, and that they barely fade. Chair Lieu asked how often a clear coat should be done for murals of this scale. She said that depending on the level of exposure to the sun, every 3 years is a good frequency, but if it is painted on metal it can be done with automotive paint, which can last anywhere from 8-10 years.

Chair Lieu asked whether metal panels should be mounted before or after painting. BacPac replied that it depends on if there is ventilation when spraying indoors, but she would recommend painting first. Ms. Morgan said that the paintings presented today were beautiful. Ms. Mielt asked how much notice would be needed if they decided to pursue a mural. BacPac responded that a large-scale public mural would require more notice in order to deal with red tape. She said that she is currently booked until November. Ms. Mielt asked if she does live event paintings. BacPac said that she does, and that she is going to be doing one at the fairgrounds.

Chair Lieu thanked BacPac for presenting to the group. She said that the commission would need to begin thinking about potential locations if they were to decide to pursue a public mural.

Item 3 – Presentation and discussion pertaining to the Gallery 37 program through the West Valley Arts Council.

This item was heard before item 2 to accommodate for technical setup.

Chair Lieu introduced Bernadette Carroll, who shared some information about the Gallery 37 program through the West Valley Arts Council (WVAC). The program is in its 20th year, and its 50th year as an arts organization. It was founded in 1969 as an all-volunteer organization. There are lots of programs started 15-20 years ago by the founder. The office is next door to Surprise City Hall, but the organization's reach is regional.

Gallery 37 is a program for teens that runs every year, where 15-20 teens are hired each year from across the West Valley and work with a master artist to create a piece of public art for a West Valley city. The program was adopted from Chicago, and anyone who has been to the Chicago airport will have seen some of the pieces from the program. It started back in the 80s as an effort to beautify downtown Chicago. WVAC has been doing it for 20 years

and has multiple projects in various West Valley cities. WVAC partners with Estrella Mountain Community College which provides a space for the students and artists to use, and the students receive college credits for partaking in the program.

Ms. Carroll begins identifying partners between October and December, typically cities but sometimes private developments. In January, she begins recruiting and interviewing applicants from all of the West Valley cities. She will then select a master artist, and they will work collectively with the students to establish the needs and wants of the city.

Ms. Carroll shared images of past projects dating back to 2001, encompassing topics such as water conservation and native tribes, and span various mediums. She reviewed the process, detailing the brainstorming and research process. She shared the budget, which starts at a minimum \$10,000 fee from the partner, and goes up from there depending on the type of art. Participating teens receive a stipend, and the master artist is paid a fee. She concluded the presentation and opened it up to questions or comments.

Chair Lieu clarified the mural process. Ms. Carroll said that the concept is created, the project is greenlighted, and then the students either paint on-site or inside a studio on metal panels, depending on the weather. Ms. deJong asked whether metal panels have ever been moved in order to relocate the art. Ms. Carroll said that they have in the past, specifically in the City of Peoria. Ms. Mielt recalled that project, saying that the kids involved were even able to teach her about the paint and the process. Ms. deJong appreciated this process and felt that the art could be salvaged if needed.

Ms. Carroll said that the program is typically for kids 16 and older, although she has had 14 and 15 year olds in the past. Chair Lieu wanted to get Surprise involved, especially to invoke a sense of place-making. Mr. Hastings thanked Ms. Carroll for leading this effort and giving opportunities for teens to participate. Mr. Bernardo asked how the partner is selected, to which Ms. Carroll responded that usually she gets the call asking to partner, otherwise she will seek out partners. She shared that she is meeting with Luke Air Force Base to talk about gifting them a project. Ms. Mielt asked who would determine the location of the piece, and Ms. Carroll replied that the partner determines it. Chair Lieu mentioned the Xeriscape garden as a future potential location with a water conservation theme.

Chair Lieu said that this is not an action item, but she wanted to get everyone to begin thinking about how and where to pursue this project. She asked how early WVAC would need notice, to which Ms. Carroll responded that she would need 8-10 months' notice. Chair Lieu added that there is a potential partnership opportunity for this year's Gallery 37 project, where different cities would pool their money together in order to sponsor an art piece for Luke AFB. Chair Lieu asked Ms. Carroll to keep her and Ms. Osborne informed about the status of that project.

Item 4 – Discussion and action pertaining to the purchase of materials for the Mobile Museum.

Chair Lieu gave the floor to Ms. Morgan for an overview of the display. Ms. Morgan began her presentation by stating that what is being presented tonight is a draft, and that the only revisions being made are grammatical in nature, and that the statistics have been updated. The goal was to have the commission approve the concept and purchase of materials, so that the last of the revisions can be made and sent to the printer. The first image was of the banner, which will serve as a welcome to those entering the Mobile Museum, and contains information about what is contained within. The banner also includes two rhetorical questions which are intended to give people a reason to look and think about what they are

seeing. Those questions are: “Which of the reasons to support the arts would you rank as #1?” and “Do you have your own reasons to add to support the arts?”

Ms. Morgan went on to share that all of the statistics throughout the display are actual figures captured by the Americans for the Arts survey conducted in 2018. She shared that the original draft of the display was based on figures from the 2016 survey, but that they are being updated to reflect the most recent results. She added that every statistic but one has increased from the first year. There are nine different boards, which all incorporate different types of art mediums which reflect the statements being made. Ms. Morgan walked the group through each of the nine display boards. She complimented the city’s graphic artist for being able to transform her vision into a reality. The commission echoed that sentiment.

Ms. Osborne shared the quote for the printing and procurement of all of the materials for the display.

Ms. Mielt moved to approve the procurement of materials for the Mobile Museum at a cost not to exceed \$600. Vice-Chair Welch 2nd. 6 Yes votes. 1 Absent (Miller). Motion carried.

Item 5 – Discussion and action pertaining to maintenance on “The Learning Tree” by expanding the surrounding concrete barrier.

Chair Lieu gave the floor to Ms. Osborne to provide an update. Ms. Osborne shared the quote provided by Parks & Recreation staff for the expansion of the concrete. She said that staff recognizes the issue as well, and that the problem is that the piece went in after the planning of the landscaping and irrigation, leaving us now to catch up and undo the damage. Parks & Recreation did offer to split the cost on this effort. Ms. Osborne did not have a rendering to share with the group, but was relying on the landscaping staff’s judgement and recommendations. She offered to seek a rendering if it made the group more comfortable before proceeding. Chair Lieu was very appreciative of Parks & Recreation’s offer to offset the cost, but she would like a visual aid prior to proceeding. Ms. deJong pointed to a portion of the scope that mentions new landscaping and plants. She asked why it would need to be landscaped if it is not landscaped now, especially when people walk to see the piece and sit on the benches. Ms. Osborne said that she could relay that question to staff, and that rather than make a motion tonight, the commission should wait until all questions are answered and they receive their rendering.

Item 6 – Discussion and action pertaining to the purchase and installation of lights in the display cases within the Mayor’s Atrium.

Chair Lieu tabled this item for a future meeting.

Item 7 – Consideration and action pertaining to the approval of the budget action plan for FY20.

Chair Lieu had Ms. Osborne explain the spreadsheet to the group. She detailed the earmarked and spent expenditures, and added some additional expenses per the commissioners’ suggestion.

Ms. Mielt asked if the group has ever thought about hosting an event for our artists. Chair Lieu said that in the past, the commission has paired their reception with Arts HQ, who was also holding a reception, in order to maximize visitors. Ms. Mielt suggested events more along the lines of unveiling new pieces once they are installed and bringing more

awareness and visibility to public art. Ms. Osborne added that the “Special Event Hosting” line is typically for food and refreshments, and that it may not be a bad idea to purchase some finger foods for the State of the City event as part of the History Wall unveiling. She advised that the commission not focus too heavily on spending out of that fund because of the relatively low amount.

Item 8 – Discussion pertaining to a contact list for West Valley arts organizations.

Chair Lieu gave the floor to Ms. Miett. Ms. Miett shared her draft of the list, saying that she was sure she missed a few but wanted to share and get feedback from everyone.

Chair Lieu thanked Ms. Miett for putting the list together. Ms. Miett said that some of the organizations did not have websites or phone numbers, which was reflected in the list. Ms. deJong asked whether Tolleson had any arts organizations, to which Ms. Miett responded that they did not other than a performing arts center in their high school. Ms. Osborne said that she knows the city does not have an arts contact or department, but she would verify. Ms. Miett brought up the Glendale Police Museum and a museum in Old Litchfield Park, which she did not know about previously.

Vice-Chair Welch asked about adding historic societies to increase the “culture” presence on the list. Chair Lieu asked that the list be revised to show Marylou Stephens as the head of the Arts & Culture Department. Chair Lieu asked about the City of Avondale’s arts staff, to which Ms. Osborne responded that their staffing model is set up very similarly to Surprise’s. Ms. deJong asked where ProMusica is located, and Ms. Miett replied that they are now in Phoenix. Ms. Miett said that she would continue working on the list and adding to it if needed.

Other Business and Future Agenda Items:

- Display Case lights
- Learning Tree
- Fiesta Grande
- Women’s Heritage
- Reception for Charter Schools
- Vision & Sound
- Public Art Mural

ADJOURNMENT – Motion to adjourn 7:48 p.m. – Vice-Chair Welch, 2nd by Ms. Miett. 6 Yes votes. 1 Absent (Miller). 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 September 9, 2019.

Danielle Osborne, Management Analyst