

CITY OF SURPRISE
ARTS AND CULTURAL ADVISORY COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes – Approved

October 7, 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, Crystal Miller.

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

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Current Events Reports

Chair Lieu shared that there was a panel meeting for the Public Works facility artwork that is going to Council. The design that was chosen is incorporating four public workers that will surround the existing signage. The signage will also be changed to have a more industrial look as well. The artist that was chosen will help reduce the costs of the figurines by utilizing 3D printers and welding the panels to create a 3D figure. It will not have as much detail as a bronze sculpture, but it does not need as much detail since it's on a driveway/roundabout. She also met on FS 304, and shared that the RFP will be going out soon. Chair Lieu attended the Peace Pole celebration, and added that One Step Beyond brought in dove-shaped cookies as part of the celebration. She also shared some sad news – Robin Harris from Musical Surprise passed away. There was a celebration of her life and works last Wednesday. She will be missed, but Musical Surprise will go on.

Ms. Miett shared that Theater Works will be putting on performances of "The Crucible," which opens October 11th and runs through the 27th. They will also be hosting Puppet Works, which is great for young kids. Tickets are affordable, so it is a great opportunity to introduce kids to theater.

Ms. Morgan went to 15th street and Fillmore to look at BacPac's Flamenco mural, they were great but she was disappointed to see that they were on the side of housing. Ms. Morgan said that her work and level of detail was amazing, but she wishes BacPac had a different forum.

Ms. Welch went to the FS 304 panel meeting with Susan and Margaret. It was a great meeting, and they decided to advertise an opportunity for an artist to create an interactive piece for the community. She also spoke at a Women in Leadership meeting, where she shared information on the Commission's endeavors.

Mr. Hastings attended the Peace Pole dedication ceremony, and also attended the Surprise Care & Share Expo.

Ms. deJong went to the Peace Pole dedication as well. She also attended a West Valley Art Leaders meeting, as well as the FS 304 meeting. She saw Theater Works' performance of Spamalot, and attended a Teachers' mixer at Arts HQ. She also attended a Westmarc Quality of Life meeting, where they are once again putting an emphasis on art, and will be adding it to their legislative agenda. Ms. deJong closed by saying that she just found out we have an exciting hanging coming up for our gallery, but would discuss it in detail later in the meeting.

Ms. Miller finished her Bachelor's degree in accounting yesterday. Now that she has free time, she hopes to be more active and involved in the next few weeks.

Chair Lieu asked if Ms. deJong could debrief the West Valley leaders and Westmarc meetings anytime she goes, like she did earlier.

D. **Staff Reports**

Ms. Osborne updated the Commission on the proposed artwork for the Public Works Operations Facility, saying that it would be going to Council on Tuesday, October 15th at 6pm. She asked the Commission to attend and show their support. She also shared that the RFP for the Development Center bench centerpiece has closed, and she will be convening the panel soon.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Andy Cepon - Mr. Cepon complimented Danielle Osborne on the quality of the minutes. They are publicly archived records and are accessible now and in the future. Mr. Cepon went to the Share & Care event, and congratulated Paul for a successful first year event. He looks forward to next year.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS – NON PUBLIC HEARING

Item 1 – Consideration and action approving the September 9, 2019 Arts and Cultural Advisory Commission Meeting minutes.

Chair Lieu requested that Ms. Osborne amend "rehabilitation" to "restoration" under Staff Reports.

Ms. deJong moved to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2019 Arts & Cultural Advisory Commission meeting as amended. Mr. Hastings 2nd. 7 Yes votes. Motion carried.

Item 2 – Presentation and action pertaining to participation in the annual Vision & Sound – Black History Month project.

Chair Lieu introduced Norma Cunningham to discuss the Vision & Sound event for Black History Month 2020. Ms. Cunningham passed around some flyers related to the events for February 2020. The Vision & Sound Board has been doing this for five years. This year, they partnered with the YWCA to put on an event, which will be held at Estrella Mountain Community College. The second big event is at the Performing Arts Center in Peoria – a jazz string show. She added that they are also planning to include a new author as part of the presentation.

Ms. deJong explained the background of the program to the new commissioners. Vision & Sound asks the Arts Commission to sponsor transportation for students from the Dysart school district, so they can visit the performances taking place in Surprise. Chair Lieu shared how impressed she has always been with the performances. Ms. deJong added that currently, 2 classes from Willow, one from Valley Vista, and one from Shadow Ridge will be attending. Ms. Cunningham is willing to arrange for more dates if they are requested.

Ms. Morgan recalled that the DUSD superintendent came to a commission meeting earlier in the year, and had said that Dysart would no longer be holding back buses. She asked whether the district has been contacted regarding the free use of buses, rather than spend money. Ms. deJong preferred to vote for the money and then contact Dr. Kellis, so that they could move forward and not have to bring an action item back to the commission. Ms. Morgan said that she remembered Dr. Kellis offering the buses up for use by the commission. Mr. Bernardo asked for clarification on what the ask to the district would be at this point. Ms. Morgan responded that she would like to inquire about using the buses without the fee. Ms. Mielt felt that an expenditure amount should still be approved.

Ms. Mielt moved to sponsor transportation to the Vision & Sound exhibition at a cost not to exceed \$500. Mr. Hastings 2nd.

Ms. Morgan asked to amend the motion. Chair Lieu said that there would need to be a discussion on this motion, followed by a vote. If the vote fails, a new motion can be made.

Ms. Morgan would like to pursue the free use of the buses, and should that not be approved, then the commission would pay for the buses. Ms. Osborne said that the motion on the table includes a “not to exceed” amount, so if the buses are free, then no money would be spent, but if there is a cost, it would not exceed \$500.

Chair Lieu disclosed for the record that her school participates in the activities but does not benefit from the use of the buses, so she did not feel there would be a conflict of interest.

Ms. deJong disclosed that while she used to sit on the Vision & Sound Committee, there is no longer a committee, therefore there is no conflict of interest.

Ms. Osborne re-read the motion for the record. Seeing no further comment, Chair Lieu asked for a vote. 7 Yes votes. Motion carried.

Ms. Morgan suggested that Ms. Cunningham reach out to other companies such as Wal-Mart and Amazon for sponsorship of the books and toys that she hopes to distribute to the students. Ms. Cunningham passed the book and doll around for everyone to see.

Item 3 – Presentation and discussion pertaining to upcoming special events in Surprise and presentation by Sports & Tourism staff.

Chair Lieu introduced Travis Ashby from the Sports & Tourism Department to present on upcoming events. There are a number of art-themed festivals lined up one after the other in upcoming months.

Vermillion Promotions Surprise Arts Festival November 29th – December 1st, Mark Coronado Park. Designed for Black Friday shopping. The Vermillion art shows have been all over the valley and include great sculptures and items for purchase. The event is free to the public.

Artisan Treasures Holiday Art Show November 29th – December 1st, Surprise Stadium. Talked to both promoters, they agreed that both events would compliment and play very well off each other. This would allow a good opportunity to visit both events. Parking is free for this and all events.

Surprise Party (Arts & Crafts show component) December 6th and 7th. Arts & Crafts show will take place on the 7th at Mark Coronado Park.

8th Annual Thunderbird Artists Fine Arts & Wine Festival January 10th – 12th at Mark Coronado Park. This event is an example of the use of the Tourism Fund – the event was started eight years ago as a result of the Tourism Fund but is now self-sustainable. \$3 admission, wine and craft beer tasting \$10.

Artisan Treasures Spring Fling Event February 15th at Mark Coronado Park. Local Mom & Pop-type fair, run by Wood & Me.

Ms. Mielt asked about displaying the Mobile Museum at Spring Training. Mr. Ashby said that staff could discuss the potential of displaying it. Chair Lieu thanked Mr. Ashby for bringing awareness of these events to the Commission. She said that she would love to be involved in all of these events if possible. Ms. Mielt suggested hosting the Mobile Museum during Cal Ripken Day.

Mayor Hall asked whether there would be food components at any of these events. Mr. Ashby said that there will be, especially at the Vermillion Arts Festivals. Mayor Hall asked whether there would be music, Mr. Ashby said yes, particularly at the Vermillion events. Thunderbird Artists would have roaming performers, and Artisan Treasures don't have live performances, but would utilize the P.A. system.

Item 4 – Discussion and possible action pertaining to materials for the Surprise Fiesta Grande event.

Ms. Osborne passed around the sign-up sheet once again and asked that the commissioners review and revise their availability as needed.

Ms. Morgan said that the boards have not been delivered yet, but they are due this week and should make the deadline. The banner is in and looks beautiful. Ms. Morgan shared her hesitation to display the boards at this event without first ensuring that everything is situated and ready for display. She also added that the display may not be suitable for a nighttime event. She felt that it may be best to wait until the November events to put on the full display.

Various commissioners asked about the materials that have already been delivered. Ms. Osborne said that she and Mr. Bernardo set up the tent to review all of the materials, and while the sidewalls were printed correctly, they did not include Velcro or some other type of anchor to adhere it to the canopy of the top, which means that the walls would not stay upright. This happened despite all of the materials coming from the same company, so Ms. Osborne was working to remedy the issue.

Chair Lieu would like to have a test run by hosting the tent at the Fiesta Grande, rather than running into issues the day of the event. She would also like to look into lights for the tent.

Ms. Osborne said that she listed this as an action item in case she needed to buy more materials for the tent. Mr. Bernardo suggested clamp lights for nighttime. Ms. Osborne reviewed the necessary materials. She and Mr. Bernardo recommended a not to exceed amount of \$300.

Miett moved to approve the procurement of materials for the Mobile Museum at a cost not to exceed \$300. Mr. Hastings 2nd. 7 Yes votes. Motion carried.

Ms. Osborne said that as soon as she gets the final information from Parks & Rec, she will send everything out to the commission at once.

Item 5 – Discussion and possible action pertaining to commissioning of public art murals in Surprise.

Chair Lieu reminded the commission that this item stemmed from the conversation regarding art acquisition for the year. At the last meeting, BacPac presented her previous works, which were amazing, but a location needs to be selected first. Chair Lieu knows that there has been discussion of expanding the public art inventory beyond the City Center, but due to the presence of the college, she feels that a mural would be perfect for this area. She suggested the orange wall on the outside of City Hall that walks you into the bill pay area, as well as the wall panels facing south on the courthouse.

Ms. Miett suggested doing a Gallery 37 piece with BacPac as the Master Artist, but Ms. deJong said that there is not enough lead time for a Gallery 37 project. Chair Lieu asked about Ms. deJong's ideas – she suggested the Original Town Site, specifically Villanueva Rec Center. Vice-Chair Welch suggested the swimming pool wall, and the wall where the mosaic pieces were removed. Ms. Miett said that the mosaic tile wall would present the same water damage issue as previously.

Ms. Miller suggested the theater building through Dysart, and a potential partnership, and an avenue for involving kids in the creation of the mural. Ms. Miett suggested gifting the mural to the school, thereby removing maintenance costs from the commission. Ms. deJong liked the idea, but if we want to do a project this year, we need to move quickly. It would be a good idea for next year.

Ms. Miett asked whether there are long stretches of fencing that need beautification. She asked about the wall across the back entrance from Walmart along Litchfield. Ms. Miller suggested doing something like what Peoria did, painting a mural on the street.

Mayor Hall suggested picking three to six locations and presenting them to Council, and allowing Council to select the location. The commission discussed the compilation of photos to put on a PowerPoint for presentation to Council. Ms. Osborne asked which meeting they were hoping to present at. The commission settled on the second November meeting. Ms. Miller said that she would be willing to put the presentation together. Chair Lieu asked that Ms. Miller create the presentation, then get it to Ms. Osborne by October 21st so that she could put it on the city's presentation template and have it ready for both the commission and council agendas. Mr. Bernardo said that the commission needs to consider whether this would be one mural or a series of murals, and whether there would be open solicitation, or direct selection with one specific artist.

Call to the Public – Andy Cepon: the consensus at the last meeting was that everyone enjoyed BacPac’s work and wanted to go with her. She does not have any work in the West Valley. By purchasing multiple murals from her, we could attract tourism.

Item 6 – Discussion and action pertaining to maintenance on “The Learning Tree.”

Ms. Osborne shared a sketch of the work to be performed. The area immediately surrounding the concrete circle would be landscaped with bushes and gravel, then the irrigation re-worked into a drip system rather than sprinklers. There would be no expansion of the concrete, but the area would be enhanced. She reminded the commission that Parks & Recreation offered to pay for half of the cost. Ms. deJong asked if the bushes would prevent people from walking up to the piece. Ms. Osborne said no, since the pathway by the sidewalk would still be open.

Ms. Miller said that she just did similar work at her HOA and did not pay nearly as much for the work they did. Mr. Hastings asked whether multiple bids were sought for this work. Ms. Osborne responded that the bid was provided by Parks & Recreation staff, and that she does not know what their internal procedures are for these types of things. She also said that she does not know the typical costs for landscaping of this scope, so she could not say with certainty whether the price was high, low, or on-target. She added that the commission did not have to vote on this item if they were not comfortable with the price. Chair Lieu asked what their recourse would be at this point, to which Ms. Osborne said that she could ask staff to reach back out for more options. Mr. Hastings said that a breakdown of the costs would be helpful. Ms. Miller said that this work would probably be cheaper than restoration efforts down the line, but the cost is still bothersome to her. Mayor Hall said that what bothers him about this bid is that it is not delineated and that it is not broken out. He does not know who the contractor is and distrusts the bid.

Ms. deJong asked that they be more specific and come back next month. Ms. Morgan asked who all they reached out to for the bids. Ms. Morgan asked that Ms. Miller share her landscaping contact with Ms. Osborne. Ms. Miller asked that staff check into whether the bid would still be relevant in November.

Item 7 – Discussion and action pertaining to a reception for the Charter School art exhibition in City Hall.

Ms. deJong said that the reception is December 2nd, right before the Commission meeting. It will take place from 5 – 6pm. They will be using the whole gallery and one case. Chair Lieu clarified whether they would be invited back next year, as well as the money to spend on snacks and refreshments.

Ms. Miller moved to approve the procurement of snacks and refreshments for the Charter School gallery reception at a cost not to exceed \$200. Vice-Chair Welch 2nd. 7 Yes votes. Motion carried.

Ms. deJong mentioned an exciting upcoming show – a baseball related show which will exhibit more than 50 Sports Illustrated covers, framed, and Negro League jackets. She would like to bring it to the next agenda, potentially discuss incorporating it into Black History Month. She was also contacted by Sun Bower – Korean artist who does Western art.

Ms. Morgan asked who hangs the art for the art exhibits, and asked to bring this up on a future agenda. She had some concerns related to liability, and wanted to address them ahead of the renewal of the agreement with West Valley Arts Council.

Ms. deJong asked whether we would like to invite the Charter Schools back next year. Chair Lieu asked whether Ms. Morgan and Ms. deJong have met regarding upcoming shows. She would like some progress made towards group decisions on how to proceed with future shows. Ms. Morgan asked what specifically would need to be discussed, Chair Lieu said planning exhibitions from January 2021 forward.

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

Chair Lieu tabled this item to a future meeting.

Other Business and Future Agenda Items:

- Heritage Trail
- Presentation by West Point Elementary principal
- Learning Tree
- Future art shows (baseball show)
- Budget overview
- Events for the Mobile Museum
- Murals item for Council

ADJOURNMENT – Motion to adjourn 7:47 p.m. – Vice-Chair Welch, 2nd by Ms. Miller. 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 October 7, 2019.

Danielle Osborne, Management Analyst