

**CITY OF SURPRISE**  
**ARTS & CULTURE ADVISORY BOARD**  
**DRAFT Meeting Minutes**  
**November 2, 2009 / 6:00 PM**  
**NORTHWEST REGIONAL LIBRARY**  
**16089 N. BULLARD**  
**SURPRISE, ARIZONA 85374**

CALL TO ORDER: 6:02pm

A. Roll Call

**Arts Committee Members:** Kristy Miller - Chair, Kathie Morgan, Jim Biundo, Sandra Staehle (absent), Joanna Ciccolini-Mankiewicz, Ellise Hayden, Eric Cultum

**Ex-Officio Arts Committee Members:** Julie Richard, Kendra Amburgey (absent)

**City Staff:** Melissa Miller, Dana Garr, Leslie Rudders

**Guests:** Ms. Nancy Alcock, Surprise Historical Society and two members

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Current Events Reports – Ms. Ciccolini-Mankiewicz provided an overview of an initiative for the Arts that she will be assisting with by collecting signatures in cooperation with the Arizona State Commission for the Arts. For every \$10 dollars spent, one cent will go towards funding arts. The signatures collected will help get the initiative on the 2010 ballot as a proposition. Grants can then be applied for from the fund that is created.

D. Staff Reports – M. Miller overviewed that the pro circuit item that the group will be discussing this evening has changed from a program cover contest to a poster contest. An update on the finalized settlement agreement with the artist for the city hall sculpture was provided to the board as requested. Leslie Rudder, Senior Center Supervisor, shared senior program special projects. The Heritage Tree was completed in 2007. Most recently a mosaic 9x5 quilt made of ceramics was recently mounted in the gather room at the senior center. Lots of hands went into modeling of the clay and the finished project looks like an actual quilt. The next endeavor is a mosaic bench for the front of the building that will interweave the history of one of our residents, Regina, who turned 100 years old this year. Regina's friends and family will be invited to participate. Upcoming performances by a theater group called "Elements of Surprise" have elevated their kitchen band to a lip synch and dance performance. The center is also in its third year of "Senior Idol", and various cultural observances and activities are incorporated in to the senior programs such as Black History, Oktoberfest, Native American Storytelling, Cinco de Mayo, and belly dancing. Ms. Richard asked how the quilt was funded. Per Ms. Rudders, the West Valley Arts Movement (WAM), and Senior Site Council were supporters. Donations have been collected for the mosaic bench of approximately \$600 and the remaining funds required will be provided by the Site Council.

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

No requests for the floor were received.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

E. Approval of items on the Consent Agenda

No items were identified as consent agenda items.

**ARTS & CULTURE ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA ITEMS – NON PUBLIC HEARING**

**Item 1 – CITYWIDE – The City Clerk will welcome and swear in new members Eric Cultum and Ellise Hayden.**

The City Clerk swore in two new members who were then able to be included as voting members for the remainder of the meeting. Current and newly sworn members exchanged introductions and provided a brief background of their experience and interests.

**Item 2 – CITYWIDE – Approval of minutes from the July 6 and September 14 regular Arts Board meetings.**

Motion to approve minutes Ms. Ciccolini-Mankiewicz, seconded by Mr. Cultum. None opposed. Motion carried.

**Item 3 – CITYWIDE – Report on the Community for All Ages focus as it relates to arts projects.**

A grant application to the Arizona Community Foundation was submitted on October 8. If approved/funded, the first focus will be to build a community garden near the Interfaith Community Care campus. The group will then look for a funding source to water the garden. There is also a wall between the hotel and the park to the west of Interfaith that needs some attention to be more attractive. The group will then turn its focus on the needs of original town site as the grant evolves and if renewed annually.

**Item 4 – CITYWIDE – Discuss future ideas for historical exhibit at City Hall to commemorate Surprise's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.**

Guests from the Surprise Historical Society were present to answer questions regarding an potential exhibit in City Hall. Ms. Nancy Alcock, president and founder, spoke to the societies aspirations to partner with the city and develop a display that commemorates Surprises history and 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Mr. Cultum asked if there was a location already identified at City Hall. Ms. Alcock stated that she believes one option to be conference area south of the atrium lobby and perhaps on portions of the blue walls of the atrium leading to the conference area. The final location will be determined by the mayor/council. Ms. Richard asked if the exhibit will be rotated or static. Ms. Alcock answered that portions of the exhibit are derived from a book written by a paid historian that documents Surprise's progress and evolution. Those will encompass the majority of the display. There are interviewed from some of the first families to settle in Surprise and some who live(d) in the original town site, etc. The book is due to be published the first of the year. Interviews have been recorded and compiled for the project to have the ability to stream video. Mr. Cultum asked if there were any objections to using a modernized format to display a historical exhibit. Ms. Alcock advised the society has no issues. The library history and history collected from the City Clerk. The society will maintain and help financially through grants that have been applied for through the Arizona Humanities Council. The society doesn't need to own the exhibit to qualify for a grant and have obtained 501(3)(c) status. Ms. Ciccolini-Mankiewicz asked if any local businesses are partaking and commented that we need to bring these groups together with the seniors to strengthen them. Ms. Alcock advised so far they have three businesses, forty members, and that some from the senior center have submitted items to Sherry Aguilar for the exhibit. M. Miller stated the Arts board will get direction on the location then work to provide guidance on the exhibit, photos, requirements, cataloging, displays, etc. K. Miller requested a list of artifacts and items for the exhibit so the board can provide guidance in a future agenda item as to what can and cannot be displayed. Much will depend on how and where the item was acquired. Mr. Biundo applauded the concept of a new name for the exhibit rather than calling it the Surprise History Museum.

**Item 5 – CITYWIDE – The board will select the panel of judges for the Pro Circuit poster.**

Staff suggested that he panel of judges for the contest be no more than three board members so there is no issue with a quorum. The winner will be announced on or around December 9. The poster will be used to market and promote the event. Three categories from across all three grade levels (elementary, middle, and high) will be represented on the poster. Additional judges may include a member of the teen board and perhaps Mr. John Austin, manager for the tennis facility. The criterion has been established to be open to Surprise residents to submit 2D artwork that follows the women's pro circuit theme. The deadline for submissions will be November 21, judging on or around December 7, with winners announced around December 9-11. Ellise Hayden motioned to approve Eric Cultum, Kendra Amburgey, and Kathie Morgan as the judges representing the Arts Board. Seconded by J. Biundo. None opposed. Motion carried.

**Item 6 – CITYWIDE – Discussion on a cooperative effort to bring an art walk to Surprise.**

K. Miller overviewed the Mayors idea of an Art Walk through City Hall, that ties to the Communiversity and possibly incorporate the old Heard Museum area in a "First Friday's" concept. Artists and possibly food vendors and entertainers may be brought in. Premise is to build local support to browse the area perhaps once a month and tie into whatever else is going on. M. Miller reiterated that funding needs identified, and the Arts Board will support via contacting the local art community. CRS will support by overseeing the vendors and entertainment. Ms. Hayden asked if this event will tie into the Historical Society's exhibit outlined in this evening's agenda item #4. That will depend on timing and funding. Ms. Ciccolini-

Mankiewicz commented that the location sounds ideal. The downtown Phoenix event has good galleries, however, the street art can be somewhat iffy. We would need to help keep the event legitimate and of high quality with quality art so it doesn't turn into a swap meet concept. Guidelines would need established and money will need to be spent if we want money to be spent at the event. Ms. Richard shared that she had also spoken to the Mayor and suggested Thursday's as a potential day so as not to compete with the downtown event. Where would artist lists come from? K. Miller advised she has contacts in the community who may be willing to share their lists. M. Miller advised the City can also do a formalized solicitation process. Ms. Ciccolini-Mankiewicz asked if we could partner with the West Valley Arts Council. Ms. Richard advised she would hope so and also with the West Valley Arts Movement with whom they are the fiscal agent. Additionally, Kokopelli and Vogue Bistro are looking for a tie-in. Ms. Richard advised that a one-time setup/takedown is not advisable due to the significant amount of work involved. K. Morgan said she liked the concept, but it sounds fragmented. Should we partner with the others? M. Miller suggested that the CRS Department would have an event planning committee to help facilitate. Ms. Ciccolini-Mankiewicz inquired into the status of the building formally occupied by the Heard Museum. Ms. Richard advised they were meeting with the Mayor on Monday as the West Valley Arts Council was considering throwing their hat in the ring. Mr. Biundo reiterated that this needs to be a celebration of culture and has to be done well right off the bat. Ms. Richard shared that the First Thursday's concept is where each organization/city in the valley does their own thing on a Thursday. Need to ensure not the same people are involved in the event over and over. A draw from all over the country and not just the Southwest needs to be included. K. Miller commented that maybe the event needs to be more special than once per month. M. Miller suggested that perhaps the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration in December 2010 can be the tie-in and then build more frequent events from there. K. Miller questioned becoming a stop on somebody's route. M. Miller recalled that was tried once, but it rained the entire time and was not revisited. Ms. Richard suggested tying into the Sunflower Art Magazine and other similar publications where all the festivals are advertised. Surprise would want to be in the Jan/Feb/March issue, however, a year and a half's notice prior to the event is required. Mr. Biundo cautioned against losing the uniqueness of the event. Ms. Hayden asked how much an event such as this would cost. Ms. Miller advised that we are only in the concept stage at this point, while others on the board mentioned their experience ranges from \$25,000-\$150,000.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Future agenda items may include voting for a new vice chair, guidance on the display in partnership with the Surprise Historical Society, Judging of the Pro Circuit submissions, update on the Arts Walk concept, and beginning to update the strategic plan after the first of the year.

**ADJOURNMENT** – Ms. Ciccolini-Mankiewicz moved to adjourn. Ellise Hayden seconded. Unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:29pm. The next meeting will be **December 7, 2009**, at the Northwest Regional Library.

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kristy Miller, Chair

**CERTIFICATION:**

I, Dana Garr, Analyst for the City of Surprise Community and Recreation Services Department, Maricopa County, Arizona, do hereby verify that these are the true and correct minutes of the Arts Board meeting held on November 2, 2009.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dana Garr, Analyst

**POSTED:**

**TIME:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Linda Stevens, Deputy City Clerk

**SPECIAL NOTE:** Individuals needing reasonable accommodations, such as large print materials and oral/ASL interpreters, should contact the Disability Advocate at **623.222.3821** (Voice) or **623.222.3802** (TTY/VP) at least three (3) business days prior to the event so arrangements can be made.